THE ADVENTURES OF A VALET.

Written by Himself.

In TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
Printed for J. Robinson at the Golden Lion, Ludgate-street. MDCCLII.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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Printed for J. Roberts near the Oxford Arms
in Warwick-Lane.

PREFACE.

AN unbounded Liberty has been given to Fancy in the Novels, Adventures, or by whatever other Names may be called the Exploits and Atchievements of our late created Heroes in the Fields of Gallantry and Fortune: Their ideal Actions have been well adapted to the Characters which have been produced as the Agents: Characters which could exiſt only in the Imagination of their Writers; and not there unleſs that Imagination were in a vitiated State.

WE find, that the Diſtemperature of the Fluids will ſo far affect the Appearance at leaſt of external Objects, that, to a green-ſickneſs Girl, her Apron ſhall appear ting'd with the Colour of her Complexion; and, to the

Man in a Jaundice, a Shilling ſhall aſſume the Likeneſs of a Guinea. Theſe Changes, though they ſeem to be exiſtent in the Things before us, are, however, no-where but in our own diſtemper'd Organs: They are but Appearances, ſupported by no Foundation in Reality; and, in the ſame Manner the Judgment, ſubject to a thouſand Diſorders (not the leſs real becauſe yet unhonoured with Names) ſpreads its own Colours over the Objects that offer themſelves to its Contemplation. The Man, who ſees human Actions diſtorted, deſcribes them as he ſees them, and then wonders that others of leſs diſturbed Minds ſee them as they really are, and in Conſequence of that declare his Pictures wholly unlike the Originals.

IT will not look like Adulation to except the Authors of Tom Jones *and* Clariſſa *from this general Cenſure; nor would it have been needful indeed to have named their Works, if we had but ſaid*

there

there were two ſuch: But how deplorable a Thought, that in an Age in which there is ſo uncommon, ſo unequalled a Multiplicity of Writers in this Way, there ſhould be only two worthy the Exception.

THE Author of this Eſſay, his only Performance of this Kind, will not pay the Public ſo ill a Compliment as to ſay, he ſuppoſes his Place to be among the common Herd of Adventure-makers: If he did not believe himſelf much out of their Rank, he would not have preſumed to write at all. He may be deceived in the too favourable Opinion he entertains of himſelf, perhaps half Mankind are ſo; but he will with a better Grace ſubmit to ſuch a Cenſure, than to that of being ſuppoſed to ſet out with a deſpicable Senſe of his Abilities, and knowingly and intentionally to have deceived the Public.

IF the Reader ſhould, from his profeſſed good Opinion of the Writers juſt mentioned, ſuppoſe this Piece, becauſe upon a ſomewhat ſimilar Plan, will be like theirs, he will find himſelf miſtaken. The Author does not think it a familiar Taſk to imitate ſuch Geniuſes; nor would he think it eligible if it were eaſy: He would take more Pride in being but an indifferent Orginal, than the beſt Copier in the World.

WHAT he attempts is to deſcribe Nature; and as he profeſſedly diſclaims Art of all kind, he hopes to ſucceed in deſcribing her as he finds her: He had rather her Nakedneſs ſhould give Diſtaſte, than hide the juſt Symmetry of her Limbs with an ill-faſhion'd Drapery. Whatever may be his Talents for an Author, he is ſure to be faithful in his Relations. He affects no more than to paint Scenes, all which he has been a Witneſs to, moſt of which he has felt.

A very uncommon Fortune has carried him through a Series of Misadventures, in most of which he can recollect his Follies, if not his Vices, as the Occasions of his Distresses. The Sense which he at this Time entertains of these will prevent his engaging in Scenes so mischievous again; and he is ambitious that not himself alone should be profited by the Retrospect.

ON looking carefully back upon the varied Scenes of a wild and strangely chequered Life, he sees Virtue ever the Forerunner of Happiness, and Vice as constantly the Source of Sorrow. There may have been Hours of Follity, as gay, as chearful, as alluring, as he has described them, but the attendant Days of Remorse he finds have always overbalanced them by an infinite Disproportion.

IF the real History of a Life thus miſ-ſpent may be the Means of ſaving others, who at this Time may ſee the tempting Scenes in the ſame Light in which the Author of the Relation once did, from feeling their Effects as he has felt them, he ſhall not only think his Pains in writing well paid, but even look upon the Misfortunes he has ſuffered, as worthily borne, for the ſake of ſo diffuſive a Benefit to his Fellow Creatures.

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THE

THE ADVENTURES OF A VALET.

BOOK the First.

In which the Valet obtains his Qualifications for his ſucceeding Character.

CHAP. I.

His Education, and ſome Hints as to his Parentage.

THE Circumſtance with which I could wiſh to open this Hiſtory would have been that of acquainting the Reader who I am; but, as this is a Secret of which very unhappily I was not ſo early informed myſelf, he muſt have the Indul-

gence to conſider it as one of the neceſſary and unavoidable Deficiencies of the Beginning of this Biographical Eſſay.

THE earlieſt Incident of my Life that I have any Remembrance of is, the having been ſeverely whipped for entertaining myſelf with giving the ſame Diſcipline to my Top, in *York* Minſter, in the time of Divine Service. This has led me to recollect many Paſſages that might do honour to ſome modern Writings of this kind: Theſe happened during a Period of nine Years which ſucceeded this feeling firſt Remembrance of my having exiſted, and while I was under the Care and Tuition of a Clergyman at ſome Diſtance from that City, who had undertaken the Charge of my Cloaths, Food, and Education, at the Price of nine Pounds ten Shillings a-year.

ON my Removal from this Scene of ſtarving Severity, I found myſelf in the Apartments of an old-faſhioned Gentlewoman of about fifty, who took ſome Pains to inform me, that although ſhe had the Care of my Education, ſhe was no-way related to me; that, "thanks to her

"Virtue

" Virtue and Reſolution, ſhe had never " fallen into the Snares of any man in the " varſal World; not that ſhe could ſay, " indeed, there was any Harm in bring- " ing Children into the World, when the " Fathers was able to maintain them, and " to do good to diſtreſſed Gentlefolks too, " that ſhould be willing to take Care " of 'em."

By theſe, and ſome other Harangues of the ſame kind, it was eaſy for me to learn that I had a Father who was in a Condition to provide for me, and a Mother who thought ſhe had Reaſon to be aſhamed of me, though ſhe had never ſeen me in her Life, nor ever intended it: Who they were, gentle Reader, I at that time knew no more than thou doſt: Thus much was all that I had then been able to learn about them, and this is all I can at preſent afford thee on the Subject.

I had been indulging for a Week in this Land of Eaſe and Plenty; and very heartily congratulating myſelf, all that time, on a Deliverance from a State of worſe than Egyptian Bondage; when, after having been one Morning with this good Lady

ſeeing the Lions, the Armour, and all the other Obſervables in the Tower; the Coach ſtopped with us at the Door of a Houſe in a neighbouring Street, over which was written, in large Gold Letters, *The Academy*, a Term I ſoon afterwards learnt the Meaning of: I found myſelf again introduced there into a School, tho' a School of a much more tolerable kind than that I had been a little while before releaſed from.

AFTER ſpending eight Months at this Place in unlearning a good deal of my former Acquiſitions, I was declared qualified for any Public Office; and accordingly I was immediately put into one, without my Solliciration, and indeed without my Knowledge or Conſent.

THIS was a glorious Change for me indeed; this was a Period of my Life I ſhall ever reflect on as the moſt favourable that has, or indeed ever can attend it. Our Happineſs is all owing to Compariſon, and the greateſt of all additional Circumſtances in its Favour is Novelty. Little as the State of Life in which I now found myſelf placed had in reality to boaſt of, I enjoyed

joyed that little in its utmoſt Perfection; and with both theſe Advantages in no common Degree: To feel myſelf independent, the free Maſter of my own Actions, and upon a Footing with Men, had Charms for me that perhaps could have been heightened by nothing but the Remembrance of the State of Slavery and Dependance in which I had always hitherto lived.

My Life, for a Year and half after this fortunate Period, at the Commencement of which I was between fifteen and ſixteen, was at once the happieſt and the moſt romantic imaginable. My Poſt was in the Cuſtomhouſe, among a Set of gay, agreeable Fellows, of ſomewhat more than my own Age, who, I know not why, unleſs that they ſaw me as perfect a Stranger to this World, and to all its Affairs, as if I had dropped down from the Moon among them, all took a Fancy to me, were fond of doing me a thouſand acceptable little Offices, and introducing me into agreeable Societies. The Pay of my Place I found was only expected to ſerve me as Pocket-money; Cloaths were furniſhed me by a Taylor, whoſe very Name I was not acquainted with; I boarded in a little

Family without knowing who paid for it; and I was informed, that what I was ſo extremely ſatisfied with at preſent, was only a neceſſary firſt Step to a much more conſiderable Employment.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

The Hero becomes fond of Theatrical Entertainments. He forms a Scheme of contributing to them by his own Qualifications.

THE Diſtance at which my Companions, as well as myſelf, lived from the Places of Diverſion, did not prevent our frequenting them: Probably enough indeed, according to a ſtrange kind of Perverſeneſs that every Man in the World has at one time or other found himſelf heartily addicted to, we went much oftener to them than we ſhould have done if they had been at the next Door: The Entertainments of *Sadler's Wells*, and the Equilibriſt in the *Hay-market*, I found had by far the greateſt Charms of all other Amuſements of this kind for moſt of my Acquaintance; for my own Part, the Play-houſes were always my Favourites: I attended them at leaſt four times a-week, and very often was not abſent one Evening in a Fortnight.

AMBITION, though of an odd kind, was in my Nature; and as I could have no

Inſtigation to the raiſing my Thoughts to Royalty in its real Circumſtances, I uſed to look upon the happy Mortals who could be Kings and Heroes for three Hours at a time, in the face of a crowded Audience, as the greateſt of all other Objects of Envy.

Mr. *Garrick*, juſt at this Period of time, appeared on the Stage at *Goodman's Fields*: The firſt Notice of a Perſon of Merit in the theatrical Way, could not fail to hurry me to be an Admirer of it. I neglected *Drury-lane* and *Covent-Garden* to attend at this obſcure Theatre every time he appeared; and from what I conſtantly obſerved of his Manner in performing, I convinced myſelf I had diſcovered that what I had been uſed to admire as the Effect of hard Study, was, in its utmoſt Perfection, nothing but mere Nature; that Mr *Garrick*, while he commanded his loudeſt Thunders of Applauſe, did no more than juſt what the Perſon he repreſented would have done in real Life on the ſame Occaſion, and that, conſequently, every Man who had a Heart to feel, a Genius to comprehend, and Organs to execute what ſhould be dictated by theſe Means, might do juſt the ſame.

FULL

FULL of this Perſuaſion, I went the next Morning to Mr. *Rich*, and begged it as the greateſt Favour that he would give me leave to play King *Richard* for him: He deſired me to give him a Specimen of my Abilities in the firſt Speech; but I told him honeſtly I had not got it by Heart: He ſtared upon me with a Mixture of Aſtoniſhment and Contempt, and aſked me what Reaſon I had to ſuppoſe myſelf qualified for ſo difficult an Undertaking? To this, upon my anſwering that I had minded ſufficiently what Playing was; and that if he would give me leave to come among them upon the Stage, I would engage for the executing my Part as well as the reſt of them; he ordered the Footman to bring his Hat and Sword, told me he was engaged that Morning to the Practice of a new Entertainment, and ſo ended our Acquaintance.

I COULD not but be nettled at the ſaucy Suſpicion of a Manager of a Play-houſe, that I was not qualified to do what a Set of Fellows that he paid ſo much a week to were performing very eaſily, and very well every Night. I thoroughly gave up

all Thoughts of farther Sollicitation to him, or to any other in the ſame Office; and confined my Talents to a private Exhibition, playing over ſome Part of King *Richard*, for that was my favourite Character, every Day alone in my Apartment, and never propoſing to honour any body but myſelf with being preſent at my Performances.

I WAS in the Height of theatrical Rapture one Morning in my Bedchamber, which was the Part of the Houſe where I gave leaſt Diſturbance to the Family, when a Perſon whoſe knocking at my Door I had no more perceived, than the Notice the Maid thought ſhe had given me of ſome body's wanting me, came into the Room. I ſtopped with great Confuſion: But the Viſiter ſetting himſelf down without Ceremony, uſed ſo much Intreaty with me to proceed, that I took Courage and gave him the Remainder of the Speech.

MY Intimates, who were fond of being thought Wits, and in Conſequence of that were fond of being ſeen in Company with People who they ſuppoſed were ſo, had frequently introduced me to ſome Houſes

Houſes about *Covent-Garden*, where the Players of a middle Claſs reſorted: I had made an Acquaintance with ſeveral of thoſe Gentlemen in theſe Viſits, and it was one of them who had now broke in upon my Soliloquy, in order to offer me ſome Tickets for his Benefit.

He ſpoke in Raptures of my Power as a Player, and after a Profuſion of Compliments to pave the way to it, ventured to tell me that I ſhould make him a happy Man for ever if I would perform a Part at his Benefit.

The Propoſal was accepted with much greater Readineſs than he could have expected; the only Objection I made was, that my favourite Character was this of *Richard*; he immediately agreed to alter his Play, and I gave him an abſolute Promiſe of performing in it.

There was now about a Month to the Day of Performance: I applied thoroughly to the making myſelf a Maſter of the Part: The Bills were printed for it, with Notice that a Gentleman who had never appeared on any Stage before was to play

the Part, and the Expectation of the whole Town was raiſed to a very conſiderable Pitch, by the Account given of my Abilities by People who had, and who pretended to have ſeen me rehearſe it, while ſo faithful a Secrecy was kept on my own Part, as well as on that of the Perſon who was to be profited by it, that not the moſt intimate Acquaintance I had in the World had the leaſt Idea that it was me they were to ſee upon the Stage.

PERHAPS it is abſolutely impoſſible for any Man who has not been inſtructed by ſome Perſon accuſtomed to the Stage, to perform a capital Character ſucceſsfully in his firſt Attempt before an impartial Audience; but the Caſe with me was otherwiſe: The Audience at a Benefit is always a favourable one, the Player had ſaid a vaſt deal in my Favour, and begged every body to ſupport and encourage me with Applauſe, wherever he had delivered his Tickets; ſo that two Thirds of the Audience were prejudiced in my Favour: If we add to this the infinite Pains I had taken for the laſt Month to qualify myſelf for the Undertaking, and the Length of time I had been before practiſing the Part, with

with ſome other favourable Circumſtances that will be mentioned in their Place, it will not be eſteemed a Miracle that I did not totally fail in it.

THE Panics I ſuffered during the Interval between the firſt Muſic and the drawing up of the Curtain, are not to be expreſſed. I think the ſilent March of an Army up to the Face of an Enemy can hardly be more terrible: At length the Moment came for my appearing. I threw myſelf boldly on the Stage, and was received by a Clap that gave me Time to breathe and look about me, before I entered on my Speech. The Friends of the Perſon whoſe Benefit Night it was, had ſet this on foot the Moment I entered on the Stage; but I had no ſooner advanced three or four Steps on it than my Face was known to a Dozen or more of my Intimates, who never miſſed any thing new at the Theatres, and who had been ſeeking me through the whole Town to be one of their Party.

THESE Gentlemen, and their Adherents, formed a very conſiderable Part of what Authors and Players call the Town; they revived the Applauſe with tenfold Ardour

Ardour the Moment they diſcovered me, and continued it ſo long as to perſuade a very conſiderable Part of the unbiaſſed among the Audience, that I muſt be ſome very extraordinary Perſon.

PEOPLE who are willing to be pleaſed, eaſily find Occaſions of being ſo; almoſt every Sentence I pronounced produced a Clap during the firſt Act, and hardly a Speech during the whole Play that had not the ſame Tokens of Applauſe at its Concluſion.

IT was not only the Audience in general that was deceived by this Applauſe, the true Source of which they did not know; the People behind the Scenes were led into the ſame Sentiments by it; they received me every time I came off the Stage with the higheſt Encomiums, and told me there was nothing I might not, if I pleaſed, arrive at as a Performer.

The Manager of *Drury-lane* Playhouſe, at this time, had many Reaſons againſt appearing in Perſon at the Houſe; but he had ſo many Emiſſaries to give him an Account of every thing that paſſed there, that

 I had

I had not got through the ſecond Act before I received a very polite Meſſage from him, requeſting to ſee me the next Morning at his Lodgings: In the fourth Act I was put in mind of this Invitation; and before the End of the fifth, a freſh one was delivered to me, deſiring our Meeting might be that Night after the Play was over.

THE Prudence that inſpired the Reſolution of ſending this ſecond Meſſage to me was not without its Foundation: My Succeſs in the third Act was ſuch, that he ſuſpected the Maſter of the other Houſe might otherwiſe have been before-hand with him. I did indeed receive a Hint of that kind behind the Scenes, tempered with the Conditions, if I had no immediate Connection with the Houſe I was then at; but had Mr. *Rich* known that the Perſon he ſent to, was the ſame he had ſo lately refuſed, or had Mr. *Fleetwood* known my Reſentment of that Treatment, there would have been a ſhort End of the Hopes and Fears on the two different Sides about it.

I FINISHED my Part, as it appeared to my own Judgment, more to the Satisfaction

faction of the Audience than I deſerved. No body ſeemed ſo little charmed with my Performance as myſelf, and I am apt to believe, by what followed this, that I was the only Perſon who was in the right. It was not my Buſineſs to declare Sentiments of this kind to any body: I received the Congratulations of my Friends with as lofty and ſufficient an Air as if I had deſerved them; and entered the Apartment of Mr. *Fleetwood* with all the Triumph and Conſciouſneſs of Merit on my Brow that ever a victorious General rode into *Rome* with. The Manager, after many Compliments, deſired me, as the Gout had prevented him from being able to ſee me on the Stage, to repeat any Speech that I liked, in private to him: The Applauſe that I was at this time flushed with, gave me one of the firſt Requiſites to a Player, great Spirit, by the Aſſiſtance of which I pronounced one of the principal Speeches in that Part better, I am confident, than I had done any of it on the Stage.

HE delivered his Opinion of me in high Terms; and in the ſame Breath took the Liberty, after many Apologies, to aſk me,

me, if my Father were alive: It was impoſſible for him to conceive this ſhould prove a troubleſome Queſtion to me; but the Reader, who knows ſomewhat more of me than Mr. *Fleetwood* then did, will eaſily conceive that it was impoſſible for him to have aſked me a more perplexing one: I evaded it with ſome Confuſion; on which, renewing his Compliments and Apologies, he told me he was only deſirous to know what the Situation of my Affairs was, that he might be able to judge whether he could make me any Offer that ought to appear worth my accepting: On this Head I was much more explicit than on the laſt; I told him with great Frankneſs, that I had a Poſt of eighty Pounds a-year in the Cuſtom-houſe, and a Proſpect of its becoming much more conſiderable.

"SIR, replied he to this, you may "wait ſeven Years for its being raiſed to "a hundred, and after this, before you "advance a Step farther, may be paſt the "Enjoyment of an Increaſe in your In-"come; I will give you four hundred "Pounds for the next Seaſon, and five "for each of the ſix ſucceeding ones; af-"ter which you may poſſibly find it very

"eaſy

" eaſy to make yourſelf Manager of a " Houſe, and raiſe a Fortune in a few " Years more."

THE Propoſal of becoming engaged as a Player, a Servant to the Maſter of a Theatre, was very new to me: I had no Inclination to fix myſelf in another State of Servitude; and adding to this, that I had entertained the common diſhonourable and unfair Notion of the Rank in Life a Player bears, there were not wanting Motives of Force againſt my accepting the Propoſal.

THE Manager, however, who had as much Cunning as any Man I have met with, though not the thouſandth Part of a Grain of Prudence, diſcovered that I was coy, not reſolute againſt it: He kept me to ſup with him; Burgundy was the Word afterwards; he praiſed me, and I grew more and more complying; the enviable Part of the Players Profeſſion appeared every Moment in a fairer and fairer Light to me; I heſitated about a Refuſal, and in ten Minutes a Lawyer, who had made one of our Company at Supper, after receiving the Signal from the Manager, returned

turned from a Side-table where he had been writing, without aſking any body any Queſtions; and produced a blank Agreement between Mr. *Fleetwood* and myſelf, for the whole Term of Years mentioned, at five hundred Pounds a-year.

He told the Manager it was not worth his while to haggle about a hundred Pounds with a Perſon of Merit, and added to me, that this was the way of making Stage Agreements, and that if I now refuſed the Offer, the whole thing would drop into Oblivion, and all the Pains in the World would never bring it to this Criſis again. There is a Time, ſays he, Sir, in all the Affairs of Life, which if ſlipped never returns. This is yours: You have a Gentleman's Fortune offered you as a Certainty for a Number of Years, and if you refuſe it, you'll find yourſelf, very probably, a Clerk's Clerk as long as you live.

The Arguments I thought had Reaſon: They prevailed: I ſnatched the Pen and ſigned the Paper without Ceremony; Mr. *Fleetwood* did the ſame, and it was delivered into the Lawyer's Hand to get proper

per Inſtruments drawn up in form from it in a Day or two.

THIS had been an Evening of greatly more Buſineſs than any former one of my Life. I retired to my Lodgings too full of Thoughts to ſleep, the moſt of them very pleaſing ones: I was the next Morning dreſſing me to go to the Office, when I received the following Letter from the Hands of a Chairman, who was all in a Sweat with the Hurry of bringing it.

"SIR,

"YOU have greatly diſpleaſed the "Perſon on whom you depend, by "the raſh and mean Thing you did laſt "Night in acting on a public Stage. You "don't know what is intended for you; "but if ever you ſhould be guilty of one "ſcandalous Step of this Kind again, you "may be aſſured you will, from that In-"ſtant, be given up for ever, by one "who has at this time both Ability and "Inclination to make your Fortune.

*** ***."

HERE

HERE was a Shock I had never ſo much as dreamed of. I ſtood mute and aſtoniſhed for ſome Minutes. The Chairman was gone who had brought my Letter; and I had no means of acquainting the Author of it with my Intentions, or Engagements. There was but one Step to be taken. I waited on Mr. *Fleetwood* on the Inſtant, ſhewed him the Letter I had received, and on my Knees intreated him to let me be off my Engagement; he laughed at my Inexperience, aſſured me it was only a Plot of the Maſter of the other Houſe to prevent an Engagement with him, that I might be at Liberty to hear his Offers; and, in ſhort, ſaid ſo much to me about the general Nature and Tendency of anonymous Letters, that he perſuaded me I had been made a Fool of, and very heartily reconciled me to the Thoughts of my laſt Night's Agreement.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

An Offer toward ſettling comfortably in the World diſconcerted by former Engagements.—A ſecond Part played on the Theatre.

THE Time of Plays was in a manner over for the preſent Year: I had a whole Summer before me, in which I kept my Place at the Cuſtom-houſe, and employed all my Leiſure in ſtudying three or four Characters, which my new Maſter had recommended to me: I ſaw him often, and knew ſo little of the World that I became vaſtly fond of him; I aſſured myſelf he was a Man without Guile, and never looked on him in any other Light than that of one who had made my Fortune: For his Part, he conceived more and more Hopes of me, from the Improvement I made in my Manner, from Obſervation and from Application: The Nature of our Connection was, at my Requeſt, and indeed for his own Advantage, not to make me old before I was new, as he expreſſed it, kept wholly a Secret. I received Offers from Mr. *Rich*, to which I returned

for

for Anſwer, that I had no Thoughts of the Stage; and his Antagoniſt took Care to have it whiſpered about the whole Town, by People who believed what they ſaid, that I was the greateſt Genius that ever had appeared on a Theatre, and that it was great pity I could not be prevailed upon to play again.

WHETHER this was ſo univerſally and plauſibly reported, that it came to the Ears of my unknown Friend, ſo that he believed I had, in reality, quitted all Thoughts of this way of Life; or from whatever other Cauſe it happened, I found my Place, in the Courſe of the Summer, augmented from eighty Pounds a-year to two hundred; and, as I was one Morning preparing to go to my Office, received a Letter in the ſame Hand with the former, telling me, that if I would dance with a certain Lady named there, at one of the Halls in the City on the *Thurſday* following, it might prove the Beginning of an Acquaintance that I ſhould have great Reaſon to be pleaſed with.

THIS Letter was delivered to me by my Taylor, which Circumſtance alone was

was ſufficient to convince me that the former was no Counterfeit: I preſſed him very earneſtly to give but the leaſt Intimation by which I might make out whence it came; but he refuſed: He behaved with the utmoſt Reſpect and Deference to me, but aſſured me, that if I knew the Nature of his Obligations, he was ſure I would not preſs him to an Impoſſibility: He added, with a very low Bow, "Sir, you will ſome time or other know it all, and when you do you will have Reaſon enough to be pleaſed with it." He begged Leave, after this, to meaſure me for a Suit of Cloaths which he had Orders to ſend me in, and which he promiſed ſhould be ready by the time of the Ball.

IT is unneceſſary to relate my Sollicitations to be off my Bargain with the Manager, or his obſtinate Refuſals: It may be ſufficient to ſay they were the Buſineſs of a thouſand Letters, and of Viſits innumerable, in the Period between this and the Opening of the Houſe for the enſuing Seaſon: In all theſe as I grew more earneſt in my Intreaties, he became more reſolute in his Refuſal.

I MET

I MET the Lady, who was a Woman of Beauty, Fortune, and, in ſhort, of every Thing but Family, and with whom I became honeſtly and heartily in Love. I was admitted to viſit her: I declared my Intentions, and was not refuſed. Matters were drawing apace toward a Period that muſt have made me very happy for ever, when the Play-houſes having been open about three Weeks, there appeared Notice in the Bills, that on ſuch a Day would be acted the Tragedy of *Hamlet*, the Part of *Hamlet* to be performed by the Gentleman who had acted King *Richard* the Seaſon before with ſo great Applauſe.

THE having ſucceeded in this ſingle Attempt upon the Stage, was never mentioned to me even by the dear Object of my Wiſhes, otherwiſe than in a very favourable and good natured manner, but the repeating a thing of that kind was deemed unpardonable. I received a third Letter from my unknown Friend, full of Concern and Diſpleaſure at the Circumſtance, and threatening me with utter Ruin if I did not deſiſt from the Intention. I had the Precaution, ever after my re-

ceiving the firſt of theſe anonymous Letters, always to ſtop the Meſſenger when I received one, in Hopes it might be from the ſame Hand: In this I ſucceeded ſo far as to be able to deliver an Anſwer to it; though my Expectations from it could be but very faint ones, when he informed me that he knew not to whom he ſhould deliver it, for that the Letter he had brought me had been given to him by a Gentleman whom he did not know, in the Street.

I WROTE as to a Father. I told him of the Dread I had of diſpleaſing him, I urged many Things in Excuſe of my having entered into a raſh Engagement, and concluded with telling him, that I was ſo circumſtanced that, though deſirous in the higheſt Degree to obey him, I had it not in my Power to refuſe the Maſter of the Play-houſe, and was indeed articled to continue a Player the whole Seaſon. I did not add that I was a Slave for a ſtill longer Period; but this was enough: All that I had pleaded in my Favour was in vain: I found it neceſſary to give up my Place, and I never heard from my Benefactor afterwards: The People where I boarded told

told me, that if I ſhould chooſe to continue on the ſame Terms with them, they muſt look on myſelf for the future as their Pay-maſter; and on my next Viſit to my Miſtreſs, I found ſhe had changed her Lodgings, and I was not able by the utmoſt Endeavours, to trace out what was become of her.

I FOUND myſelf now compleatly reduced to the Condition of a Player: My Friends, my Expectations all gone, and nothing to comfort me but the Certainty of a handſome Salary and the Expectations of riſing to Reputation in the Profeſſion in which I had engaged.

WHETHER it was, as I at firſt ſuſpected, that I owed my Succeſs in *Richard* to the Partiality of the Audience, more than to any Merit of my own; or whether like the Button maker, who ſome Years ago ſucceeded in *Othello*, and failed in every thing elſe, I had ſo deeply and indelibly impreſſed my Senſe of the Character and Manners of my firſt Part, *Richard*, on my Mind, that I could never diveſt myſelf of them afterwards, and conſequently was *Richard* in every thing; whether the

World had been talked into too great an Opinion of me; or to what other Cauſe it was owing I know not, but certain it is, that my Succeſs in *Hamlet* was by no means equal to that in *Richard*. The Manager, who was not eaſily to be perſuaded out of his own way of thinking, forced me a ſecond Night upon thoſe who had been diſſatisfied with the firſt, and the Conſequence was, that I was received with that noiſy Diſapprobation which People ſeem to have very well underſtood what the Perſon who is the Subject, feels from it, when they gave it the Name of Damnation.

THOSE who had been the warmeſt in their Applauſe began now to look cool upon me; but not one of them ſo much as my late dear Friend the Manager: He ſent me a Letter in a Day or two however, deſiring me to rally all my Force againſt a certain Day at about a Week's Diſtance, on which he would give me another Trial in *Richard*. Anxiety and Vexation added tenfold Strength to my Endeavours of excelling in this great Taſk, but they failed. I was hiſſed off the Stage by the unanimous Voice of the Audience, and every body declared

declared there was no Expectation of my ever making a firſt-rate Player: Moſt gave it as their Opinion that I ſhould never be able to make any thing of it at all. My Comfort was, that though I had loſt my Reputation I had ſecured a Subſiſtance, indeed a very affluent one: I had not agreed by the Week, as the Generality of the Performers do, and conſequently was not to be paid at the Office as they were. A Quarter of a Year had at length elapſed, in all which time I had done nothing, though I had ſeveral times expreſſed a Deſire of being made uſeful in a lower Capacity than that I had flattered myſelf with ſuppoſing I could ſucceed in: As my Pay was now due, which, though I had not deſerved by my Services, I certainly had a Claim to from my Sufferings, I waited on the Manager to demand it, but was denied Admittance. The faſhionable Term, *not at home*, the *Engliſh* of which is, *don't be troubleſome*, was repeated to me three or four times a Day for a Fortnight after this, and however ſtrange it may appear to the World, ſo utterly was I void of Suſpicion, that I had never, till this Period, enquired into the Character of this very eminent Man.

CHAP. IV.

An Offer from another Play-houſe.—The Feeling of a Manager.

DEMANDS of the Nature of this of mine, I now found, were ſomewhat more frequently made, upon my Friend the Manager, than complied with: His Doors were ſo contrived that no body was admitted till the Servant who attended the Summons of the Knock had examined, through a grated Aperture, whether they were proper Perſons to be ſo far favoured: And his Apartments, which were in the Neighbourhood of the Admiralty, were ſo happily ſituated that, in caſe of Accidents from the Artifice of ſome of the People who ſometimes had very preſſing Reaſons to wiſh to ſee him, or from the Indiſcretion of a Servant, he was ſtill ſecure, a Part of them being in a protected Place, and a Part in an unprotected one: The Front-rooms ſtood on Ground that was within the Verge of the Court, and in which, conſequently, no Warrant could have Force that was not ſupported by an Order of the Board of Green-cloth; the Back-ones had nothing of that Privilege,

Privilege, and conſequently were ſecure againſt Proceſſes that were ſo ſupported.

UNDER ſuch a Situation, and with an utter Abſence of all Intent or Inclination to pay even the moſt trifling Debt, did I now find the Man on whoſe Engagements I was to depend for my immediate Support: The Apprehenſions I had from this were terrible, but they were not more ſo than the Conſequences. I found myſelf as it were hung up in the Wardrobe of my Maſter like an ill made Suit of Cloaths, that helped to ſwell the Furniture, but was never intended to be made any Uſe of. I continued to beg, to intreat, to threaten, all to the ſame No Purpoſe, for that whole Seaſon, and during the whole enſuing Summer: Toward the End of this, however, an Event that promiſed to be a fortunate one for me happened.

As I had no Proſpect of getting Bread in any other way but by Playing, my ill Succeſs had not ſo far diſpirited me as to make me neglect improving myſelf. I had ſtudied hard during the whole Period of my Diſtreſs, and ſucceeded ſo well in the capital Parts of two Plays that had been

acted by a ſort of private Companies at the *Hay-market*, that the Maſter of the other Houſe thought me worthy his Notice, and made me another Offer, which, though far from a conſiderable one, was infinitely preferable to the abſolute Nothing of the preſent.

I WROTE with great Joy to the Manager under whom I was at that time ſo unhappily engaged; told him, as I had been of no real Uſe to him, I would give up all my Demands upon him, and cancel our Engagements, by enliſting myſelf, at ſuch a Price as I ſeemed to deſerve, at the other Houſe.

I SHOULD have remembered that the Compliment I offered was a merely ideal one to a Man to whom Demands and Engagements were nothing; but I believe the Reader will not expect that I ſhould have foreſeen the Event of my Offer. He abſolutely refuſed me Liberty to engage with Mr. *Rich*; he told me I was his articled Servant; and though he had not, nor ever intended to keep any one Circumſtance of the Engagements on his own Part, threatened me with Ruin if I dared to infringe them.

TILL

TILL this fatal Moment I was never thoroughly acquainted with the Miſery of my Situation: I waited on Mr. *Rich* with the Letter of his Brother-Manager, told him the whole Story of his Behaviour, and when I expected his expreſſing all the Horror at it that I felt myſelf, I had the Mortification to ſee him turn on his Heel, and take a large Pinch of Snuff with conſummate Deliberation, before he told me, that People who were at the Head of a Company would do theſe Things, and that he was ſorry he could enter into no Agreement with me.

CHAP. V.

A Scene of Diſtreſs.—An unexpected Meeting with a Stranger.

MY Heart was now almoſt broke in earneſt: I found myſelf the bound Servant of a Man who would neither employ nor maintain me, and who was reſolutely bent againſt my getting even Bread any where elſe; and this in a Road of Life which when I reflected ſoberly on it, I could not but ſee was, even under its more favourable Circumſtances, far from a deſirable one, to a Man who had any Share of Reaſon, or of Virtue.

THOUGH I had met with none of the Advantages, or even of the Pleaſures of a Player's Life, I had herded of late among the lower Claſs of them, till by continual Converſation with them I had fallen into all their Vices. I found myſelf, inſtead of the ſober, decent, innocent, and conſequently happy Youth I remembered at the Cuſtom-houſe, a Sot, an Atheiſt, and a proſtituted Rake. My Company had led me into the two firſt of theſe Characters, and

and the latter I owed to an early Attachment in which I had engaged myſelf to one of the Figure Dancers; whoſe Views upon my plentiful Salary had made her imagine it no undeſirable or unprofitable Thing to be under my Protection.

We had ſet out on a Plan of living, well enough ſuited to my Income, had it been paid; and the Conſideration that had obtained me a Character with my Miſtreſs, having done me the ſame kind of Service alſo with the neighbouring Trades-people, who are all very well acquainted with the Salaries of the People of the Theatres, I had for ſome Months had an almoſt unlimited Credit, and after that a ſtill conſiderable one, which though it had gradually diminiſhed to this Period, had never quite left me till one fatal Morning, when going down to ſpeak to two Gentlemen who ſent up word they came from my Friends, I found myſelf in the Hands of a Couple of Bailiffs. They led me to an Apartment, the Iron Work before the Windows of which gave me a very ſad Idea of the next Habitation into which I ſhould be removed.

I NEVER ſhall forget, though I am not able to deſcribe it, the Horror with which, on the Follower's going out of the Room, I heard him double-lock the Door after him; or in what perfect Deſpair I found myſelf, alone, and in ſo dreadful a Situation. The Debt for which I had been ſeized upon was no more than fourteen Pounds; but I could as ſoon have raiſed fourteen thouſand as that Sum: And ſo far was I from having any Friend from whom I could aſk Aſſiſtance, that I could not, on a ſerious Recollection, perſuade myſelf to believe I had any who would even own me in ſuch Circumſtances.

HEARTILY did I now wiſh to recall thoſe Days of Diſtreſs, as I uſed to call them, in which hard Fare and Whipping had claimed ſo conſiderable a Share; and when I thought of the happier State from which I had voluntarily thrown my Affairs, the only Juſtice that I ſeemed to owe to myſelf was that of periſhing by my own Hand, as a Puniſhment for Faults which I had even had no Temptation to commit.

TILL

TILL the Maſter Bailiff put me in mind of the Manager of the Play-houſe, by aſking me if I had no Salary due from him, the only Perſon to whom I had any the leaſt Right to apply, never came into my Thoughts. I ſate down inſtantly to tell him of my deplorable Situation, and intreat him to favour me with the ſmall Sum neceſſary to relieve me from this dreadful Perplexity, whatever he might determine as to the reſt. I received for Anſwer, that he was ſorry he could not poſſibly ſupply me, but that he had not half the Sum by him. The Diſtreſs I ſhould have felt on this was ſoon after converted into abſolute Deſpair, by the Perſon in whoſe Cuſtody I was telling me, that this Sum would have done me no good if he had ſent it, for that he was informed all my other Creditors had come upon me, and that I was ſaddled with Writs to the Amount of no leſs than two hundred and thirty Pounds.

HE aſked me what Method I propoſed to take: I honeſtly told him I had not a Farthing, nor a Friend on the Earth who would aſſiſt me with one: That I was an unhappy

unhappy Creature who knew not to whom I ſhould apply as my Relations; and that as there was no Poſſibility of my ever diſcharging theſe Demands, I would by no means add to my Misfortunes the Crime of deceiving him; but begged him, ſince I could never pay him for keeping me there, to deliver me at once to the Place to which I was deſtined.

A BAILIFF I had always heard repreſented as a Perſon void of Compaſſion, nay of Humanity; but I found even this Savage moved at ſuch a Scene of Diſtreſs. He told me many a Man had cheated him that had ſpoke him fair, and promiſed, and that he would keep me a little while if he loſt all the Money by it, to try whether any body would do any thing for me or not.

I HAD no body to ſend on Meſſages except the People of his Houſe, but the Uſe of theſe he never refuſed me: I ſent to every Creature I knew, and found myſelf deſerted by them all: My Miſtreſs was the firſt that refuſed me, my old Friends of the Cuſtomhouſe were the laſt that I aſked, but not one of them com-

plied with it. Strange and inexplicable, as well as horrible, my Situation appeared to me, that had drawn Compaſſion from a Breaſt not uſed to beſtow it on any Objects, much leſs on thoſe under my Circumſtances; and yet had met with none, not the leaſt tender Thought in thoſe from whom I had been uſed to expect more. The Man kept me in his Houſe a Fortnight, furniſhed me with every Neceſſary at his own Expence during all the Time, and in his whole Diſcourſe was ſo far from ſeeming to flatter himſelf with the Expectation of being paid, that he was every Hour putting me in mind of the perfect Ruin of my Situation.

He had left me one Day at the Period of this time, for about two Hours, after giving me a very deplorable Picture of my Proſpect and Expectations, when returning with a ſadder Face than uſual, he told me that a new Priſoner was juſt brought in who muſt have a Room, and there was not an empty one in the Houſe for him. "If you have any Hope of releaſing yourſelf, Sir, ſaid he, for Heaven's ſake make Uſe of it immediately, if not, tell me what I can do in this Caſe."

I THANKED

I THANKED him with honeſt Tears for his Kindneſſes, and repeating what I had ſo often told him of my utter Inability to extricate myſelf from my Debts, added my firſt Requeſt, which was, that he would carry me to the Place where I ought ſo long before to have been. He conſented with a very ſorrowful Countenance, and on my anſwering in the Negative to his Queſtion, whether I had Money to pay a Coach to the Place? he replied, "Well, Sir, you ſhall not be the Game of People in the Street, by walking there: I'll pay it for you."

IF any thing could have added to my Affliction in ſuch a Situation as this, it would have been the receiving Obligations from ſuch a Benefactor; but I was too far gone in a Senſe of my Ruin to have any Poſſibility of feeling this. We got into a Coach together, and I had the Horror of hearing him direct the Coachman where to go. We arrived at the Gate of the fatal Place, and had even alighted, when a Gentleman, a Stranger to me, and as it appeared to the Perſon alſo under whoſe Conduct I was, came up to us;

us; he ſaid he had ſome Buſineſs of Conſequence with me, and would make it worth the Bailiff's while if he would take me back to his Houſe. He readily conſented, and the Perſon who had made the Requeſt getting into the Coach with us, we ordered the Fellow to go where he had taken us up.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Affairs reſtored to their former Situation.—a great deal of good Advice.

A PERFECT Silence on all Sides was maintained while we were in the Coach. As ſoon as we had alighted at the Door of the Bailiff's Houſe, this Stranger deſired we might be in private; and telling me that I had ſtill thoſe who were willing to be my Friends if I would behave ſo as to deſerve their Favour for the future, he paid my Debts, and after giving the Bailiff ſome trifling Reward for his Civility to me, beſide diſcharging the Account in the Houſe, put a hundred Pounds into my Hand for my preſent Occaſions. "Sir, ſaid he, you will hardly ſuppoſe that Accident brought me to the Place where I ſaw you, nor will I attempt to deceive you ſo far as to ſay it did: A Perſon who knows you, no other than the Lady with whom you boarded while in the City, by Accident went by this Place as you were getting into the Coach, and heard the Orders given the Coachman. She flew to acquaint me with

with it, and I to you to relieve you. What I have done is without Commiſſion, but I hope to repreſent it in ſuch a manner to the Perſon who has, till this Affair, ſupported you, that he ſhall not be diſſatisfied with it. But now, Sir, continued he, for Heaven's ſake reflect a little; think on the happy Way of Life you were placed in, think of the Raſhneſs of your quitting it; think of the Coldneſs you have created in your Friends by diſobliging thoſe who did every thing for you, and aſſociating with a Set who I doubt not have deſerted you in this Diſtreſs: Think on the Change of your Situation, from that of a Gentleman to a Vagabond; after this think of the terrible Scene you was entering on the Moment when I ſaw you; and from the whole collect what is your real Intereſt. The Trial that is now given you to make is thus far owing to me; I know if you fail in it you will never have another allowed you, and I intreat you to uſe it properly."

People who have not been in my Situation, cannot know how deeply ſuch common Thoughts as theſe affect a Man who has. I had at once all the Picture of my former

former Happineſs and of my late Miſery before me, and ſincerely enough determined on every thing I ought. I would have fallen on my Knees to my Benefactor, but he prevented me. "Sir, ſaid he, you are quite miſtaken in me, I have no Relation to you, and have only been doing what I think will be acceptable to one from whom I have ſometimes before been commiſſioned with the Care of your Affairs." He gave me, after this, many more good Admonitions, and left me full of Gratitude as of Happineſs, and as full of good Reſolutions as of either.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

The Conſcience and Friendſhip of a Bailiff.— Every thing wears a very fair Aſpect.

MY Benefactor was no ſooner gone than I called in the Maſter of the Houſe, and as I had ſeen but a very ſlender Recompence made to him for the great Civilities he had ſhewn me, offered him my Purſe to pay himſelf out of it: He refuſed to do this, and I declared I knew not what to offer him: After a great deal of Preface he told me he hoped I would not think twenty Guineas too hard upon me. I gave it with Pleaſure, and added a Bounty to two of his Men, who not being in the Houſe, he received it for them: The good Woman, whom I had never before ſeen, now made her Appearance, to tell me that there was fifteen Shillings of the Score which the Gentleman had forgot to pay; and there were half a Dozen other Demands of the ſame kind upon me, in favour of a Porter who had been employed when their own Men were out of the way, and ſuch other Supernumeraries: At length a Maid was called

up

up who had brought the Coach; the Bailiff himſelf juſt now recollected too, that my Friend had forgot to pay that Article; and a pretty little Boy, the Heir of the Houſe, was brought in to claim ſome Recompence for having cried ready to break his Heart when I was going off to Priſon: When every thing that could poſſibly be invented on this lucrative Occaſion had been complied with on my Part, I took leave of the Maſter of the Houſe, who with a hearty Shake by the Hand, told me he was very glad I was at Liberty; hoped I had no Reaſon to complain of any thing under his Roof; and added, "Sir, you need not be afraid of any thing of this ſort for the future, you have them that's able enough to do for you; and what's Life good for if we may not enjoy it whilſt we are young and fit for it."

THIS Parting Speech of my good Friend the Bailiff was ſo little of a Piece with thoſe he had been uſed to make to me in my Diſtreſs, that I now found the whole Hiſtory of his Conduct. I am perfectly convinced that he was paid before for all his Civilities to me, that the very carrying me

me to the Gate of a Priſon was a concerted thing, and that the whole Conduct of the Fortnight I had been in his Houſe was intended only to give me a Senſe of my former Follies, and of what might have been the Conſequences of them; the whole a concerted Scheme, and my Friends, whoever they were, the main Springs that gave Motion to it.

I FOUND my Stock conſiderably diminiſhed by the Multiplicity of Demands upon me after every thing had been paid; but as I doubted not having a farther Supply from the ſame Quarter, I was not uneaſy on this Head. I had been deſired by my Friend to leave word at the *St. James's* Coffeehouſe where I took up my Habitation, and in about three Days I received a Packet, on opening of which I found myſelf in Poſſeſſion of my fatal Agreement with the Play-houſe Manager. It was accompanied with a Letter of Advice, and Promiſes of future Aſſiſtance if I did not fall into my former Follies.

I NOW thought myſelf once more the happieſt of Humankind: The Recovery from this laſt Bondage gave me a ſincerer Tranſport

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Tranſport than any Part of my whole preceding Fortune. I felt the Joy of having Friends willing again to receive me into Favour, and I determined very honeſtly and very heartily never again to forfeit it.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

A very unexpected Visit. The Consequences of it not quite such as might have been expected.

IT was easy for me to guess that my Conduct was watched; and I was sufficiently upon my Guard against a Surprize: Indeed my former Misfortunes had so thoroughly impressed a Sense of my Condition upon me, that there would have been no Danger without this peculiar Care of my making a new false Step. I had determined to regain the Favour of those who I found were willing to receive me, and thought myself sufficiently secure of effecting it. The Servant of the House, one Morning as I was at Breakfast, introduced to me, after the Ceremony of mentioning a Gentleman below who would not send up his Name, my old Friend the Bailiff.

I IMAGINED this a foolish Visit of Civility, but I was soon better informed of the Nature of his Errand. This friendly Gentleman had, it seems, immediately

after my Diſcharge, been at my old Lodgings among my Tradeſmen, and even to all my Friends round, to whom I had before ſent, to enquire after Debts, and tell the People to whom they were owing, that this was their time to be paid. My Creditors had been ſo unanimous in heaping their Actions upon me after the firſt, that there was not one of them to whom I now owed a Sixpence. My Friends I had never aſked Obligations of but in the time of my Diſtreſs, and they had then one by one refuſed me; my Miſtreſs was the only Perſon remaining for him to apply to, and he curſed himſelf for not having thought of her before, as the fitteſt of all People for his Purpoſe. With this Lady he had made an Agreement of ſharing what Money they could get out of me, and in Conſequence of this, had now brought an Action againſt me for eighty-ſix Pounds for Neceſſaries which had been ſupplied her by the Frippery Women, *&c.* during the time of her being under my Protection. My old Friend laughed at the ſerious Air with which I received this Attack: He told me it was all juſt nothing: That he would anſwer for its being made up before the Evening, and a Sum of Money

put into my Pocket beſide. I looked upon it in a very different Light: Which of us was in the right, the Reader will ſoon be informed.

I TOOK up my Habitation for the ſecond time in my former Apartments: In the Afternoon I did indeed receive a Letter from the Quarter the Bailiff had mentioned; but the Purport of it was far from ſuch as he expected. It ran thus:

"SIR,

"I HAVE been willing to think well "of you, againſt Evidence that I "ought not. I have relieved you from a "Diſtreſs under which you muſt have "ſunk, and was willing to have received "you into Favour: You have no body "to blame but yourſelf that my Intentions are fruſtrated. A ſecond Debt ſo "immediately after the firſt, and this on "ſo ſcandalous an Occaſion, ſhews me "you are not to be preſerved: I only "write this to aſſure you that you are left "to your own Care, and to warn you "againſt ſo fatal an Error as the depending on me for any farther Services.

*** ***"

THIS was written in the ſame hand with my former Letters from my Benefactor, for I knew not by what other Name to call him. I was convinced there was no Hope for me of ever reinſtating myſelf in his Favour, and was infinitely more diſtreſſed by this new Loſs of it than if I had deſerved it. I called up the Bailiff, ſhewed him my Letter, and told him the Folly of expecting any thing better than it preſaged. He kept me in his Houſe about five Days after this, in Hopes of a Mitigation of the Sentence it contained, but in all that time hearing no more from the ſame Quarter, he entered into a Compoſition with me, and with the Conſent of the Plaintiff was ſo generous as to give me my Liberty at the Price of every Farthing I was worth in the World.

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CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

An Adventure in the Park — An Acquaintance begun with a Perſon of Quality.

IT was about eleven o'Clock, on a fine *May* Morning, that my compaſſionate Hoſt had accepted theſe Conditions for my Releaſe: I found myſelf at Liberty indeed to go whitherſoever I pleaſed, but I knew not whither to go. Friends I was well aſſured I had none, of Money I had no Proſpect of raiſing the moſt trifling Supply. My Lodgings I had no Right to think of continuing under my preſent Circumſtances, and a more immediate Call than all theſe I was as little prepared to anſwer, namely, that of a Dinner. I had heard much of a Recipe famous on theſe Occaſions, and always taken in the Park, and after ſauntering an Hour or two in the Streets, I got thither about one to reap the Benefit of the Preſcription. I had counted as far as eight and twenty, when a tall, majeſtic, and very graceful Female Figure ſtrode by me, and, as ſhe paſſed, turned full upon me, to look in my Face: She ſeemed to take no particular Notice of me;

but ordered a Footman who followed her, to open the Gate into the *Green Park*, near which we then were.

IT is amazing to think at what ſlender Twigs Deſpair will catch, to keep its Head above Water a little longer. I had, I could have, no Reaſon, to imagine the Lady meant any thing by thoſe Orders more than the getting out of a Croud; but there was a Poſſibility ſhe might: I followed her up to the Gate, and as ſhe paſſed through begged her Permiſſion to come in; She ſaid no more to me than, "Sir, if you pleaſe:" But the peculiar Good-nature ſhe expreſſed by the Smile with which ſhe ſpoke it, gave me ſtill farther Imaginations of the ſame Turn with my firſt.

A PINCH of Snuff, the treading upon a Perſon's Toes, or fifty other Accidents of the ſame kind, are often the Beginnings of Converſations that, by Degrees, ripen into the moſt perfect Intimacies: It was eaſy from three Words on a Side to advance to more; I walked by the Side of the Fair-one, and ſhe made no Objection to it: We fell into a Converſation upon the common Subjects of Diſcourſe with great Familiarity,

miliarity, and continued it till we came to a Seat, where the Lady ſaid ſhe was tired; but, Sir, ſays ſhe, if you are more inclined to walk, don't let me detain you. I told her, if ſhe would give me Leave, I would rather take the other Corner of the Seat; to this ſhe did not even look an Objection, but recollecting that ſhe had left her Snuff-box on her Toilette, diſpatched the Servant back for it, and gave me a very ample Opportunity of declaring any thing I had to ſay to her.

I WAS as ſenſible of the good Intentions of the Lady in this, as Lord *Foppington* is of *Amanda*'s in the Play, when he interprets her ſaying ſome commonly civil thing to him, into *Pray lie with me*: All my Reſolution, however, was not enough to inſpire a ſingle Word that tended toward an Explanation: We continued the Converſation inſipidly enough a Quarter of an Hour; when the Lady, after looking ſtedfaſtly at me for ſome Moments, ſaid, "It is an odd Acquaintance we have made this Morning, but perhaps you will have no Reaſon to complain of it. You are melancholy: I muſt leave you at this time, for I have a Call or two to make in

the Neighbourhood, but dine with me at half an Hour after four, and tell me the Occaſion of it."

I MADE a very low Bow by way of Teſtimony of my Obedience to the Command. Whether I dined there, and what other Conſequences attended this Rencounter, as they form another very different Period of Life from the former, ſhall be the Subject of the ſucceeding Book.

The END of the Firſt Book.

THE ADVENTURES OF A VALET.

BOOK the Second.

In which the Valet (not yet become ſuch) is employed as a Man of Intrigue.

CHAP. I.

An elegant Introduction to a new Acquaintance.

THE Lady, into whoſe Acquaintance I had ſo opportunely and ſo unexpectedly fallen, left me the Moment ſhe had heard my Aſſent to her Invitation. I gazed after her with Admi-

ration, as ſhe paſſed in at a little Gate that leads out of the *Green Park* into one of the polite Streets at *St. James's*, and was ſo taken up with the Contemplation of her Shape, the eaſieſt and moſt graceful in the World, her Leg ſo ſmall that I wondered how it could ſupport her, and her Air at once the moſt majeſtic and the moſt inviting imaginable, that I never had Leiſure to recollect, till ſhe had been gone ſome Moments, that though I had Permiſſion to dine with her, I did not know where ſhe lived.

THE Tranſport which the Thought of poſſeſſing ſuch an angelic Creature had given me, had cheated me out of the Means. I flew to the Gate after her, but I found ſhe had locked it: I ſaw her before me at a Diſtance indeed, but I neither dared to call to her, nor knew how; I offered a Fellow who paſſed by at that Inſtant half a Crown to tell me who ſhe was, but I happily eſcaped a Demand which my Impetuoſity had made me forget that I had it not in my Power to pay, by his not being able to anſwer my Queſtion. My Eyes followed the heavenly Form till it was out of Sight, and I even curſed the Object

Object of my Wiſhes, and my Uneaſineſs, for being as careleſs as myſelf in ſo material a Particular.

I WAS walking back in a very melancholy Humour to the Seat, when I ſaw, to my infinite Satisfaction, the Servant, who had been diſpatched for the Snuff-box, advancing toward the ſame Place. I now found the Object of my Adoration had her Wits more about her than I had: I attributed it to her being more accuſtomed to Intrigues, and had not time to determine whether it was owing to a great Preſence of Mind, or to an Abſence of that tempeſtuous Paſſion I was diſcompoſed with, that ſhe knew the Footman muſt fall in my Way again: This welcome Miniſter approached me with great Reſpect, and after telling me that his Lady had miſlaid her Box, for that he had not been able to find it; he enquired if I had any farther Commands for him before he went to wait on her home from the Colonel's. I told him I ſhould dine with her, and received with infinite Tranſport the Name of the Lady and the Place where ſhe lived.

THERE is ſomething of a Pride in poſſeſſing the Perſon whom every body elſe admires, that adds vaſtly to the Joy we have in the Conqueſt: Though I thought my Rapture at the Height on the Subject of this earthly Goddeſs before, I no ſooner heard that ſhe was the Lady *Revell*, whom the whole World had ſo long adored, than I found it capable of a tenfold Extream, by feeling it arrived at that enthuſiaſtic Period. I ſet myſelf down to curſe the lazy, leaden-footed Hours that were to crawl between this Moment of my Expectation, and that of a Tranſport that was to make all Expectation poor. I fixed my Eye upon the Hand of the Clock at *Buckingham Houſe*; and a thouſand times in a Quarter of an Hour perſuaded myſelf that it ſtood. Every Minute became an Hour, as I diveſted myſelf of all Ideas but thoſe which marked its Duration; and I was frantic enough to ſuppoſe ſome Diſcompoſure of the Univerſe kept back the Sun, to make him keep Pace with the lazy Meaſurer of Time before me.

THIS was my Employment for the firſt Three-fourths of the Chaſm that had interpoſed

poſed between me and my Hopes; but, as the Period approached, they wandered to a thouſand other more important Objects: At one Inſtant I could not believe my Happineſs, at another I was carrying it to Madneſs on the Wings of Fancy: One Moment I was employed in gueſſing whether I ſhould find her alone, and the next in determining in what Species of Rapture I ſhould addreſs her: This Minute I ſunk into Nothing, with the Idea of her being denied to me, and the next I painted ſuch a Scene as the Conſequence of our Rencountre, that my Brain ached with being ſtretched to comprehend it.

In the midſt of this glorious Reverie the Clock ſtruck four. I knew I could not be leſs than a Quarter of an Hour in going to the Place: I conſidered it was not my Buſineſs to run in when Dinner was upon the Table: I received this as the Signal of my ſetting off for the Land of Bliſs; and my Raptures ſunk into an univerſal Tremor. I dreaded I knew not what: My Heart fluttered as if I had ſeen the Fire of a Cannon levelled againſt my Breaſt; and, ſuch is human Irreſolution, ſuch the innate Poltroonneſs of our Diſpo-

ſition, that I had almoſt a mind not to go. All the Proſpect which had appeared hitherto ſo fair to me, vaniſhed I knew not why, and a Terror of I knew not what preſented itſelf ſo ſtrongly in its Place, that I much queſtion whether if I had known where elſe to go to Dinner, I ſhould not have deſerted my whole Plan.

MY Paſſions, which ought to have given me Wings on ſo glorious an Occaſion, armed themſelves againſt me; and the mere Force of Reaſon inſpired me with the Reſolution that carried me to the Scene of Tranſport. The ſame Footman who had given me my Directions, received me at the Door; he begged Permiſſion to wipe my Shoes with his Napkin, and, with an Obſequiouſneſs I had never ſeen in a Domeſtic before, uſhered me into a Parlour.

WITH what Tranſport was it that I ſaw a Table ſpread only for two, under the Shadow of a Sideboard of Plate that might have ſerved a City Company. I had time while I was alone to obſerve the Taſte and Furniture of the Room. The Cieling was painted with the Loves of *Venus* and *Adonis*: The Damaſk Hangings were covered with a Pro-

a Profuſion of thoſe Pictures in which the maſterly Execution ſtands in the Place of Decency, and which a Lady who has Taſte may look at without the Reſtraint of ſo inferior a Quality as Modeſty; the Windows, though they did not look into the Street, had Blinds that rendered it impoſſible for any thing under the Stature of a Giant to look in, if a Miracle could have brought any body into the Way; and though every Chair was a Settee, there ſtood a magnificent *Peche immortel* in one Corner, whoſe riſing Down invited preſſing.

I HAD juſt gone through the Examination of the Room and its Furniture, when the Lady, as if ſhe had choſen the Moment for her Appearance, entered. Thou art envying me now, gentle Rival, my Reader, the moſt rapturous Kiſs that ever human Lips gave or received. But thou art miſtaken. That Ceremony thou art to know did not paſs between us: What did thou ſhalt hear in the next Chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Some Miſtakes about the Nature of the new Intimacy adjuſted.

IF I had admired, if I had adored Lady *Revell* in the Diſhabille of her Morning Excurſion; with what a Mixture of Amazement and Enthuſiaſtic Devotion did I now meet the full Power of her Charms under the Advantages of Regularity and Ornament. She was not now dreſſed, but in an Undreſs that had been the Subject of more Conſultation, and that diſplay'd more Charms than all that ſtiff Pomp of Regularity, which is more contrived to ſhew the Riches than the Beauty of the Perſon; the Jewels than the Face they were meant to adorn.

I COULD not take my Eyes off from thoſe which I ſaw ſwimming in Floods of Brilliancy: When I deſcended from that Charm, a Skin, ſuperior to every thing that Nature ever form'd under that Name, raviſh'd and aſtoniſh'd me; and if I glanced ſideway, Hair that would have been black and ſhining any where, here ſeemed to give as much Advantage

as

as it received in the Contraſt with the living Alabaſter from which it ſprung: Her roſy Lips moiſtened with a Dew that added to their natural Poliſh, called to be preſſed, but they called to me in vain; I was more in a Fit of Adoration than of Love. I approached her trembling; made a cold Compliment; and juſt ſummoned Courage enough to plead the Occaſion of my Confuſion for its Pardon.

THERE is nothing a Woman ſo much loves to receive as Adoration; nor is there any Height to which that can be carried that will offend. I had no Reaſon to be diſſatisfied with the Effects of my aukward Addreſs; but the Servants entering with ſome of the Diſhes prevented every thing that would have been ſaid upon the Subject. We dined with great Elegance and Satisfaction. The common Subjects of Converſation furniſhed us with ſufficient Matter, to keep up a Diſcourſe, ſuch as Servants might hear; and this Interval, though I had been thoroughly diſſatisfied with it at firſt, ſerved very happily to familiarize us to one another before we entered on a more intereſting Subject.

THE

THE Room was no ſooner clear'd, than the Lady opened a new Scene, by telling me, that ſhe knew not how to account for the Notice ſhe had taken of me, but that ſomething ſtruck her in my Favour the Moment ſhe ſaw me. "I find myſelf intereſted, Sir, continued ſhe, in every thing that concerns you; I am grieved to ſee you dejected. I told you, I would take this Opportunity of aſking you the Cauſe; but don't let my Concern for you lead me into Impertinence. So much of your Story as you can have Pleaſure in telling, and give me Leave to add, ſuch Part of it, as may tend to inform me, in what manner I may be of Service to you, I ſhall be happy to hear: The reſt to Oblivion."

I HAD liſtened to her with an Attention, that as *Shakeſpeare* phraſes it, *devour'd up her Diſcourſe*; "Is it poſſible, exclaimed I, that Nature can have laviſhed on one Object in this manner all that ſhe had to grace a Sex with? ſuch an Underſtanding with ſuch a Form!" — I was going on with this honeſt Rapture, with no common Vehemence, but the Lady ſtopped me. "Come, come, ſays ſhe,

ſhe, this is not our Buſineſs, you ſhall talk of this when you are cooler; but now if you'll oblige me, give me the means of obliging you?" "I find, Madam, replied I, that nothing can excuſe my Gratitude, or my Aſtoniſhment, and I therefore won't attempt it. Your Ladyſhip is pleaſed to expreſs a Deſire to be acquainted with a Part of my Story; a few Words will deliver the Whole: There's much of it that I muſt bluſh at as Folly, none that I can accuſe as guilty: But I ſhall hide no Part of it from your Ladyſhip; but ſhew you, that whatever Diſtreſs your Compaſſion may have ſuppos'd it found me in, you could not poſſibly conceive any thing ſo calamitous as it truly is. From this Exordium I gave her the whole Story of my Life, as thou gentle Reader haſt been informed of it in the preceding Pages. I could perceive ſhe was often moved at the Relation, and toward the End, ſhe did not deny it a Tear.

I WAS riſing to kiſs away the Teſtimony of her Concern for me, but ſomewhat I knew not how to underſtand, nor know at this time to deſcribe, forbad it: She ſeemed to ſee this, and gave me a Look

Look of Approbation. As ſoon as ſhe had wiped off the Marks of her Concern, "You are, ſaid ſhe, then, what I at firſt ſuppoſed you, a Gentleman: And you are in as much Diſtreſs as it is poſſible to be reduced to; it ſhall not be my Fault if you are not relieved from it. You have declared an Affair of Gallantry to me, and I think you ſpoke of it feelingly; can you engage in earneſt in another, which would be more to your Advatage?"

I HAD now leaped up in earneſt from my Chair, and had the Goddeſs of my Idolatry in a manner in my Arms, when ſhe put me back with a commanding Air, and as ſoon as I had recovered my Diſtance, told me with a Smile, that ſpoke a Mixture of great Good-nature and Compaſſion, "I am ſorry I muſt mortify you a little; but you muſt bear it. I don't pretend to ſee a Fault in your Figure; your Face is as good a one as I know, and your Manner has a modeſt Diffidence in it that is cut out for pleaſing; but you muſt not wonder that I who am followed by every thing that is great and gay in the World, do not fall down and worſhip you. I can eaſily pardon your Miſtake,

Miſtake, for it is a very natural one; but this is not our Buſineſs; my Views are of another Kind, and you muſt direct your Conqueſts another way, if you would have me of Service to you.

ANSWER me truly, if you will be dictated to in this; it is a Confidence of no common Kind I am about to repoſe in you, and I expect a Determination from which you will not go back."

IT is impoſſible to ſay, whether I was more aſtoniſhed or mortify'd at this Thunderbolt of a Declaration. I anſwered; "You ſee me deſperate, Madam: I cannot ſay, whether I will or will not engage in a thing which I am at this time unacquainted with; but I pawn my Soul and Honour upon the Forfeit, that if I do not, the whole ſhall die in ſecret". "It is enough, replied the Lady, it is my Intereſt to believe you, and I am confident I may.

You are to know then, that whether a Woman falls into many Intimacies at a time with Men through Neceſſity, or indulges herſelf in it on Choice, ſhe never is without her particular Favourite.

Even

Even Variety, fond as ſhe may be of it, while it deludes her into the giving the Man ſhe likes a thouſand Rivals, does not take off the Preference ſhe ſtill allows him. Her other Attachments are rather Sallies of Wantonneſs than ſettled Likings; and tho' ſhe may loll half an Hour in the Eaſy-Chair of a Friend, the Couch at home keeps up its Prerogative to her ſettled Eſteem: It is in my Nature to feel the Attacks of all the Foibles of my Sex, and it is not in my Inclination to reſiſt any of them. I have a natural Propenſity to roving, but I have alſo an unconquerable Tenderneſs for one Man; and it is my Misfortune to have this fixed on the Man, whom of all the World my Reaſon would have laſt directed me to the Choice of. I don't mean by this, that his Perſon or Accompliſhments are ſuch as cannot warrant the Pre-eminence I give him; but he is one whom Fortune, that takes a malicious Pleaſure in diſconcerting every rational Scheme in the World, has qualify'd worſe than any body I know for the Purpoſe.

He was, when I firſt knew him, a Man of Merit with a ſmall Fortune: I had my Eye

Eye upon him, as one who might command mine if he would ſubmit to my Conditions; but while half Words and obſcure Declarations were making my way to him, a Woman of ſuperior Fortune, bought him at a Price at which I ſhould have refuſed him: She married him: Her Fortune is at preſent too much in her own Power; and the happy Beggar rattles his Chains till he thinks the Muſic agreeable.

You will not imagine, that our Advances, tho' they did not perfectly ſucceed, yet were things of courſe to either of us, or could be forgot or laid aſide at Pleaſure. He was no ſooner married, than he renewed his Attempts upon me with double Violence: You are to know all: He ſucceeded; and while I ſuppoſed I had given him no more than I had beſtowed on others, my Perſon, I found he had taken my Heart with it.

GRATITUDE would have bid him give me his in return, could he have wanted a better Motive: Our Acquaintance continues; and in ſhort, his Wife enjoys him, as he does her Fortune: She was mean enough,

becauſe his Circumſtances rendered it impoſſible for him to make Conditions, to give him very bad ones; and he is generous enough to give me his Heart with no Conditions at all.

I DON'T pretend, that our Acquaintance is not already the happieſt in the World; but I ſee it may, and know it ought to be happier. I am one of thoſe People, who think nothing good while it is poſſible to make it better: My Fortune ſupports us in Affluence, but the Addition of her's would reduce Extravagance itſelf into the Bounds of Oeconomy. The Laws of *England* give a Huſband the Right to all his Wife poſſeſſes, and I can ſee no Juſtice, though there may be Law in the Subterfuge, by which this Lady deprives her's of his Privilege. Where Artifice has been uſed on one Part, it is fair to return it from the other. Secure as this Lady ſuppoſes herſelf in her Settlements, there is a Way to overthrow them; a Way, which you may open to us, Sir; and which I am ſo perfectly convinced of your ſucceeding in, that I am not afraid to venture a large Sum upon the Trial.

As

As ſhe ſpoke this, ſhe put Bank Notes to the Amount of two thouſand Pounds into my Hand, and not waiting for a Reply to what ſhe had been ſaying, ſhe proceeded: "You are clear, I dare ſay in the Reaſons I have alledged, for what I have to propoſe to you: What it is I fancy you could ſpare me the telling. An Adultreſs, you know, forfeits all Claim to what her Marriage Settlements had ſecured to her; and her Huſband recovers, if he had fooliſhly loſt it, the Power, which Nature, Law, and the Cuſtom of the World had given him. I, who am a Woman, know what Woman is: I know that Virtue is an imaginary Exiſtence; I am ſenſible enough, that ſome Women think it worth their while to conceal their Faults, and that others have little Temptations to fall into any; but I know alſo, that every Woman may be won, or that I am made of different Materials from the reſt of them. You ſhall be introduced as happily as you could wiſh to this Lady; you ſhall know from me the Hours of her Huſband's certain Abſence. You have a Manner calculated to ſucceed, a Form that muſt command.

THE Huſband till all is ripe ſhall not be let into the Secret; but when you have ſucceeded, he ſhall be told how he may find her criminal. The Conſequence of this will be, his diſmiſſing her with a thouſand Pounds a Year; my paying your Services with an Annuity of the ſame Value; and his adding to my Fortune ſuch an immenſe one of his own, that the very Impoſſibility of outrunning ſhall make us Oeconomiſts. If you fall into this readily, concluded the Lady, give me your Hand, and about it; if you have Scruples, go home and ſatisfy them. I won't be plagu'd with what I know to be impertinent and ſilly: There is Reaſon on the Side of what I propoſe to you, and I know you have Underſtanding enough to be convinced by it. I ſee, continued ſhe, you waver: I tell you, I won't hear a Syllable; go and grow wiſe by yourſelf, and let me ſee you To-morrow.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Great Conſultation about the accepting or declining the Offer made by Lady Revell,— *The Determination at length is made between both.*

AS the Lady, whoſe Harangue has furniſhed the Matter of the greater Part of the preceding Chapter, concluded it, ſhe went out of the Room with a Smile upon her Countenance, and told me ſhe was engaged that Inſtant on a Viſit. I did not think it my Buſineſs to keep Poſſeſſion of the Houſe in her Abſence, and decamped. I ſaw only the ſame Servant who had let me in, and he eaſily accepted my Excuſe of having only Paper about me, as I accompanied it with a Promiſe of remembering him properly the Day after.

HEAVENS! with what different Thoughts from thoſe with which I had entered theſe Doors did I leave them! The Beauty of the Miſtreſs of the Houſe was wiped off from my Remembrance, and my ſullen Compoſure at leaving it, could be equalled by nothing but my frantic Joy

at going up to it. What a Change in the ſame Frame in the Courſe of a few Hours!

I HAD plodded away a Quarter of a Mile, through Kennels without ſeeing that there were any, and along Streets without examining what they were, before I recollected that I did not know where I was going. I got into a Chair, and gave Directions to my Lodgings without conſidering what I ſaid to the Fellows; and was ſeated in my Arm-chair before I recollected that all this was noway improper; that my Finances would very well ſupport the Expence of ſuch a Lodging; and that as nothing of the Buſineſs of my Abſence had been known to the People, there was not a better Way to prevent its being ſuſpected than this of returning to them without Ceremony.

I NOW found myſelf at leiſure to reflect on the Scheme in which I was embarked: I recapitulated all Lady *Revell*'s Reaſons for the Juſtice of what I was to ſet about, but I could not find them concluſive: I was ſhocked at ſeeing ſuch an uncommon Underſtanding ſo ſhamefully abuſed and proſtituted, and I came at length

length to a Reſolution of returning her the Money, and giving her a Lecture of Morality with it. Happily for me ſhe was not at home when I waited on her with this wiſe Intention. I had a Night to cool upon my firſt Reſentments againſt the Perſon who dared attempt to bribe me to ſuch a Villainy, and in the Morning the Conſideration of my diſtreſſed Circumſtances urged me to pretend, at leaſt, to comply with the Terms that were offered for the mending them. Two thouſand Pounds to a Man who knew not where upon the Earth to raiſe two Pence, was a Sum not to be lightly ſacrificed. I found myſelf poſſeſſed of it: The Means of keeping it were ſuch as I could by no means ſubmit to; but it remained to find whether there might not be a Poſſibility of changing them for better.

THAT I could ever bring myſelf to pretend a Paſſion where I had it not, and by that Pretence to expoſe to Infamy and Ruin a Perſon now innocent, but who might poſſibly fall a Sacrifice to it, was more than the Opinion I entertained of myſelf would let me give the leaſt Credit to: But, on the other hand, I was to pe-

riſh for Want if I declared againſt it. Neceſſity is ingenious: I ſoon found, that though it would be villainous, beyond Expreſſion, to lay the Scene of puniſhing with Ruin a Perſon at preſent innocent; yet that if I made Lady *Revell* loſe this Sum, it was not Ruin to her, and that ſhe alſo was a guilty Perſon: I eaſily brought myſelf to be of Opinion, that the ſacrificing this Sum was but a very moderate Puniſhment for her criminal Intent; and if Reaſon could not ſhew me the Right that I had to be the Executioner of this Piece of Juſtice, Neceſſity ſoon pleaded that no body elſe could do it, and that I ſhould deſerve ſome Reward for my not engaging in ſo villainous a Deſign, for the Proſpect of ſo vaſtly more conſiderable a Reward which I was to receive on the Execution of it.

THE next Thing to this honeſt Reſolution of robbing Lady *Revell* of her two thouſand Pounds, was the determining in what Manner that was to be done: The firſt Thought that offered itſelf was the leaving the Kingdom with it; but this I eaſily foreſaw would be attended with Conſequences that were not worth the purchaſing at that Price: To ſtay, and not engage

engage in the Enterprize was impracticable; but a happy Medium ſoon offered, which was the pretending to proſecute the Lady's Purpoſe tho I really did not. This flattered my Honeſty extremely, and I found a ſenſible Pleaſure in the Thought of not only declining the Scheme myſelf, but rendering it at the ſame time impoſſible for any body elſe to execute it. The Uſe which Lady *Revell* intended ſhould be made of the Sum ſhe had given me, flattered my Vanity. Dreſs and Equipage were as much my Paſſion as her Ladyſhip's Purpoſe; and I, who had a better Opinion of her Sex than herſelf had, thought not only that it would be very eaſy for me to make an innocent Acquaintance with the Lady I was to be introduced to; but that if ever the Matter ſhould come to an Explanation, it would be eaſy to convince any body elſe, if not her Ladyſhip, that two thouſand Pounds might be expended upon an Attack on a Lady's Virtue, and not ſucceed.

WITH theſe Reſolutions I waited on my Benefactreſs the next Day: We dined alone, as before, and after Dinner ſhe aſked me, with a very good-natured Smile,

whether ſhe was to congratulate me on the getting the better of my Scruples. I told her that I was ready to be introduced to the Lady. No! replied ſhe ſmartly, not ſo ready as you ſuppoſe. Here's a Houſe ready furniſhed in the Square, take it this Afternoon, hire half a dozen Servants, and order your Chariot and Cloaths to be ready in four Days, you can't get 'em in leſs: And then for Succeſs; for I am ſure of it. We were now interrupted in our Converſation by the Notice of a Lady being come in on a Viſit, and I received my laſt Inſtructions to keep myſelf up for the time in which Preparations ſhould be making for my Appearance.

I WAS willing to flatter my Vanity with ſuppoſing that Lady *Revell*, in ſpite of all the Freedom of her Declarations, was not indifferent in regard to me: But whether this were really the Cauſe, or whether ſhe were ſo taken up with other Engagements as to have no Moment for thinking of me; whether ſhe poſtponed to every other Choice, a Man whom ſhe knew ſhe might have when ſhe pleaſed; or whether ſhe had the Caution to keep me ſharp-ſet for my new Attack, and not ſend me with a palled Appetite

Appetite to an Entertainment at which it was ſo much her Intereſt that I ſhould be hungry, I know not; but ſo it was, that after having given all the neceſſary Orders, I waited at home four whole Days in hourly Expectation of a Billet, or of a Viſit, as I knew ſhe was ſufficiently aſſured of finding me at home, but without the leaſt Notice of there being ſuch a Perſon as her Ladyſhip in Exiſtence.

CHAP. IV.

Very artful Preparations for the making a Figure.——A ſuccinct Account of Mrs. Ready's *Aſſemblies.*

ON the Afternoon of the fourth Day a gilt Chariot appeared at my Door; my Taylor, my Wigmaker, and all my other People of Buſineſs waited to dreſs me; and after two Hours employed in equipping me for Victory, I ſtept into my Equipage with a Heart full of Joy, Grandeur, Expectations, and even Certainty of every thing I ſhould attempt: I gave the Word for Lady *Revell*'s as I got in; but was ſtrangely ſhocked a few Minutes after at hearing that her Ladyſhip was not at home. The Queſtion of where I ſhould go next, was one of thoſe that heartily perplex us, becauſe we are by no means prepared for them; I gave Orders, in a faultering Voice, to the *St. James's* Coffee-houſe, and went away with a Heart in a ſtrangely different Situation from that in which it had come thither.

PEOPLE's Eyes were upon me, as they always are upon a Man whom they don't

know, and who makes a Figure, the Moment I entered the Room; but there was not time for an impertinent Queſtion before a Chairman brought me a Card. It was with infinite Joy that I found it was from the Lady whoſe Houſe I had juſt left, and that I was honoured with her Commands of coming inſtantly to her. This accompliſhed Woman was by much a greater Miſtreſs of Intrigue, than I a Maſter of it. I was not ſummoned to her own Houſe, and the firſt Command I received was never to appear there any more for Fear of Suſpicion. I had the Honour to meet the Lady, by Appointment, at the Houſe of Mrs. *Ready*, a Gentlewoman who kept an Aſſembly where none but People of Faſhion were admitted, and even of thoſe none but ſuch as a Majority of the Company approved; and who ſupported her Family genteely on the Card-money.

Lady *Revell* was one of this uſeful Gentlewoman's beſt Friends; ſhe had indeed been the firſt Deſigner and great Promoter of the Entertainments at her Houſe, and while the generality of the People who went thither had no Knowledge of any

farther Uſe in the Place, than the Meeting to loſe their Money in an Evening, this Lady, and a few more who were in the Secret, knew there was a Poſſibility of meeting a Friend by Accident there in a Morning, when they called about the ſettling ſome Party for the next Week, or on any other occaſional Buſineſs.

MRS. *Ready* no ſooner ſaw me enter the Room, than rubbing her Hands, and ſmirking in a very chearful and triumphant Manner, ſhe told her Ladyſhip ſhe was ſure it would do. I was ſtartled at finding a third Perſon in the Secret, but the Lady ſoon quieted my Scruples, by aſſuring me that Mrs. *Ready* was a Woman of great Addreſs, and would ſerve me a thouſand Ways in my Enterprize; and that I need be under no Apprehenſions about a Diſcovery, for that ſhe was as ſecret as her Couch. Lud! Lud! Mrs. *Ready*, continued ſhe, if you were to tell Tales what would become of the Reputation of half the Women of Character in this Town?

I HAD not yet ſeen the Lady I was to fall in Love with; and it would be paying an

an ill Compliment to my own Judgment to pretend that I was not much inclined to be ſo with Lady *Revell*: It was with an uncommon Satisfaction that I found her Ladyſhip much leſs reſerved in her Behaviour to me this Afternoon than at other times; I attributed it to the Abſence we had juſt put an End to, and was going to make ſome favourable Conſtructions for my Paſſion, but I was let into the Secret immediately after, by her obſerving that I was born for Dreſs, or it could never become me ſo.

I WAS in earneſt fond of the Lady who ſpoke this; I could not hear it without endeavouring to improve the Advantage: I could have wiſhed to have owed my good Fortune to my own Merit, rather than that of my Taylor, but I was in no Humour to loſe it, let it come what way it would. I had been let enough into the Character of the Lady of the Houſe to know ſhe wiſhed nothing more than to be convenient to her Friends; I only looked as if I had a mind to be alone, and Mrs. *Ready* vaniſhed: I threw myſelf at the Feet of Lady *Revell*: "My Heart and Soul are devoted to your Service, Angel! but

but don't ſuppoſe I can call them any body's but your own." I had the Impudence to be looking toward a Couch which ſtood at the lower End of the Room as I ſpoke this: But I had not the good Fortune to be received as I expected. "Sir, ſaid the Lady, with a Look of great Severity, one Piece of Inſolence more of this Stamp and I give up every thing I expect from you, and turn you adrift again. Know me and know your Buſineſs: Know I can deſpiſe you, while I know you will ſucceed with a Woman who ſuppoſes herſelf virtuous."

I HAD nothing for it but Submiſſion: I obtained my Pardon under a Promiſe of never repeating the Offence, and received my Inſtructions in Preſence of Mrs. *Ready*, who was to have no mean Share in the Execution of the Plan.

I ASSUMED a new Name, but without a Title: I lived with great Splendour in my Houſe, and as I knew it was impoſſible I ſhould be viſited by People of Faſhion, gave it out that my Plan was for Retirement: I went ſeldom into Public, in Conſequence of which every body's

Eyes

Eyes were upon me whenever I did; I affected to be ſhy of making Acquaintances, which made People court a Knowledge of me; and I got it induſtriouſly reported that I was a Man of Quality of a vaſt Fortune, who determined to ſpend a Year or two in *London*.

I WAS ſollicited to go to twenty Places, which I refuſed. Schemes were laid for getting me to a Number of Routs, all which were fruſtrated by my Reſervedneſs, but Mrs. *Ready*'s was ſo private and retired a Party, that I was at length prevailed with ſometimes to make one at a Card-table there. My appearing at this Rout was a Fortune to Mrs. *Ready*, every body's Curioſity led them to have a Peep at me; and the Aſſembly, which before had been on the private Terms already mentioned, now became the publickeſt in Town. The Lady upon whom all this Artillery of Stratagem was played, had hitherto never been at this Houſe, but we had ſoon the Pleaſure to ſee her Name upon a Liſt of thoſe who deſired to be admitted. Mrs. *Ready* was very communicative in anſwer to the ſeveral Queries this Lady's Curioſity propoſed about me; and a Contrivance

trivance that could appear no otherwiſe than in the Light of the perfecteſt Accident in the World, placed me at the ſame Table with her.

WE are always affected with the Appearances of Magnificence and Riches, though there is no Proſpect of our being profited by them; I took more Pains to appear conſiderable in the Eyes of the Lady my Schemes were upon, than to declare myſelf her Lover: I kept up the Spirit of an uncommon Dignity during the whole Evening, without giving myſelf any thing that could be called Airs about it, or could betray that I was affecting to appear great; and toward the breaking up of the Party, as Mrs. *Ready* was recommending an Object of Diſtreſs to the Charity of the Ladies of our Table (which was a very common Method of adding to her Profits) when it came to my Turn to be ſollicited, I aſked with great Serioufneſs whether the Perſon were really an Object of Charity? and on the Aſſurance of Mrs. *Ready* that ſhe was ſo, I put a Piece of Paper under the Candleſtick: As ſoon as my Back was turned, Mrs. *Ready* indulged the Ladies Curioſity in opening this, and found

found it a Draught upon my Banker for a hundred and fifty Guineas.

A PARTY was about this time propoſed at the other End of the Room by Lady *Revell*, at which an Oratorio, performed compleat, was to make Part of the Evening's Entertainment. Mr. *Handell*, who was preſent, was ſollicited to tell them which of his Performances of this kind could be executed with the ſmalleſt Number of Hands; but his Anſwer was, that they could have no Hands at all on the Night they mentioned, for that the whole Band he had been uſed to employ were engaged for that Evening at one of the Gentleman's Concerts who was juſt gone out of the Room. Every body was upon the full Stare at ſuch a Piece of Intelligence, and twenty People at once were expreſſing their Surprize that they had never heard of any of theſe Performances; when a Lady, planted among the thickeſt of them for that Purpoſe, declared, that ſhe had twice had the Honour of being there, but that ſhe did not wonder the thing was not more talked of, as it was wholly for the Gentleman's own Entertainment, and he only admitted three or four ſelect Friends.

HERE

HERE was a fair Promiſe to the Company of hearing ſomething more of my Affairs: They did not fail to aſk a thouſand Queſtions at once; as to how ſhe came introduced, who I really was, who knew me, and who were the three or four others ſhe mentioned? Myſtery was the Soul of our Plot, and this Miniſter of our Purpoſes did not chooſe to be very explicit on any of theſe Heads. She told them the Manner of her being introduced was a very odd one; that ſhe had no Right to mention the Circumſtances of it; but that if ſhe could have named the reſt of the Party to them, they would have been apt to treat me with a very uncommon Degree of Reſpect the next time they ſaw me.

THE Company broke up full of Wonder about me, and full of very favourable Thoughts of me: I kept retired two Days after this public Appearance, and had the Pleaſure to find my Reſerve added not a little to the exalted Opinion the World entertained of me.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

The Execution of the Stratagem laid by Lady Revell *begins favourably.*

MRS. *Secure*, the Lady who was doomed to fall before all this Apparatus of Splendour and Magnificence, was a Woman of about three and twenty, very handſome, of a rather reſerved Turn in her Diſpoſition, not without ſome Admixture of Pride, and of ſtrict Virtue. No body who had entertained a better Opinion of the Sex than Lady *Revell*, who meaſured their Virtue by her own, and who conſequently did not think it an Overballance for a vaſt deal of Artifice on a Man's Part, would have ſuppoſed it probable that an Attempt like ours could have ſucceeded upon her. She had a Curioſity raiſed pretty high on my Account, and an Opinion of my being a Man of Conſequence; but this ſlender Force was all we had againſt very ſettled Principles, and a real Love for her Huſband; a Man whom ſhe had made ſuch from no other Motive, and who had the Addreſs, during an Intercourſe of the moſt unjuſtifiable Kind with

with Lady *Revell*, to keep up an Opinion in her, that he loved, eſteemed, or even liked nothing in the Shape of Woman but herſelf. I had no Opportunity of meeting her again till the next public Night at Mrs. *Ready*'s; but that good Lady, too careful to have any Opportunity loſt, diſpatched a Card to Mrs. *Secure*, to acquaint her, that all the Party at the Table ſhe played at the Night before, would be there, and that if her Ladyſhip intended to honour her with her Preſence again, there was ſomething ſhe begged leave to mention to her before ſhe joined the Company. I don't know how far the Aſſurance of my being there might have worked upon this Lady's Reſolutions; but Curioſity is irreſiſtible: Mrs. *Secure* could not ſleep for wanting to know what it was the Gentlewoman of the Houſe could have to ſay to her; ſhe not only went, but ſhe was there an Hour before the time. Mrs. *Ready* received her with great Proteſtations of the Senſe ſhe had of the Honour her Ladyſhip was pleaſed to do her, and after begging ten thouſand Pardons for the Liberty ſhe had taken in requeſting to ſpeak to her Ladyſhip, told her it was only on the Subject of an Entertainment which the Gentle-

Gentleman whom her Ladyſhip had ſeen there the Night before was to give two Days afterwards: "He has done me the Honour, Madam, continues this excellent Embaſſadreſs, to deſire I will name to him the Perſons of Faſhion of this Company to whom he may properly ſend Cards; and all I meant by the Freedom I have taken, Madam, concludes ſhe, was to aſk whether it would be agreeable to your Ladyſhip and Mr. *Secure* to be of the Party, before I mentioned it to him."

Mrs. *Secure* told her ſhe was very much obliged to her for thinking of her on ſuch an Occaſion, and added, that if People of Faſhion went, and if it would be agreeable to the Gentleman to invite Mr. *Secure* with her, ſhe ſhould go with very great Pleaſure. Here was the whole Point of the Entertainment gained; the reſt was eaſily ſettled to our Satisfaction. This was the firſt Opportunity that had been given of ſeeing a Perſon whom no body doubted to be a Man of great Quality, at home. Mrs. *Ready* whiſpered the ſame Compliment that had taken in Mrs. *Secure*, to half a Dozen other Perſons of Faſhion, and as ſhe had the additional Strength of her

her Name and Mr. *Secure*'s to the firſt of thoſe to whom ſhe mentioned it, ſhe did not fail at every ſucceeding Application to reinforce her Civility with the Names of the others who had accepted the Invitation.

WHEN half a Dozen were ſecured, there was no Doubt about as many more as we pleaſed. I ſent Cards to all thoſe in Form who had already conſented to come, and fixing it at three Days Diſtance, this was ſo univerſally talked of, and ſo many People of Condition were found to be invited, that when, on the Day before the Entertainment, I diſpatched the reſt of my Meſſages, I had not one Excuſe.

LADY *Revell* was not of the Party: She had Intelligence of it before any body elſe had heard of it; the Scheme was indeed in part her own, and ſhe knew the Uſe it was her Buſineſs to make of it. She took care to be complaining to Mr. *Secure* for three or four Days before it was propoſed, of the few Opportunities they found of meeting, and did not fail to ſeize upon this Invitation as ſoon as it offered, by telling him it was but his ſtaying away from

from a Thing of Form, and of no ſort of Entertainment, to give her ſix Hours of his Company in perfect Security from his Wife's Suſpicion.

MR. *Secure* was really fond of Lady *Revell:* He embraced the Propoſal with an unfeigned Joy: He engaged himſelf to wait on his Wife thither, and had ſo little Gueſs at the Intent of the Plan, that he thought he had done a notable Thing when he made a Pretence of Buſineſs that excuſed him from going with her.

THERE is nothing more frequent in this ſcheming Age than a Man's deceiving himſelf while he ſuppoſes he is cheating another: There is a ſort of Retaliation in it that wears ſomething of the Face of Juſtice to him; and if it were poſſible for Men to conceive how very frequently it is the Caſe, they would be a good deal more upon their Guard for their own Sakes, how they plotted againſt others.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

An Intimacy begun with the Huſband of Mrs. Secure.—*More Advances made toward the Lady.*

NOTHING could exceed the Elegance, or, to uſe a properer Term, the Magnificence with which I found the Way to entertain my Company. The beſt Cooks in Town were retained for the Day in my Service; the Confectioners Shops were half of them ſtripped to furniſh the Deſert, and the moſt maſterly Band that could be provided, performed the Concert from which ſo much had been expected. It had been made a Point to invite the whole Party in Couples; not a Lady but had her Father, her Brother, or her Huſband with her: Mrs. *Secure* only appeared alone. It was natural for me, after affecting a Surprize equal to my Concern at being diſappointed of that Gentleman's Company, to beg that I might myſelf have the Honour of waiting on the Lady, for the Evening, in his Place. It ſeemed to herſelf, and to every body elſe, perfect Accident that had thrown this Op-

portunity in my Way, and I had a fair Pretence for being particular with her the whole Evening without Cenſure.

I HAVE always been a profeſſed Enemy to thoſe People who loſe the Race by makeing too much Haſte at ſetting out. I had ſtudied my Conduct on this Occaſion beforehand, and I had Reſolution enough, in ſpite of ſome not inconſiderable Provocations to tranſgreſs, to keep rigidly to my Plan: Every Look, every Geſture, as well as every Word and Action, during the whole time, were devoted to the Buſineſs; but the Point I aimed at was not the telling the Lady I was her Lover, but the gaining her good Opinion. I ſucceeded to my utmoſt Expectation: If the Company in general were pleaſed with their Hoſt, Mrs. *Secure* conceived an Opinion of me as the moſt accompliſhed and polite Man in the World; Her Pride was not a little flattered by her ſeeing herſelf made the Miſtreſs of the Entertainment; and ſhe received my Civilities with a double Satisfaction, as ſhe convinced herſelf I was diſintereſted in the giving them. I carried the Point ſo far as to preſs for Leave to wait on her home: She would have excuſed

cuſed herſelf, but it was impoſſible: We found Mr. *Secure* not returned, though it was late: The Lady's Complaiſance could not ſuffer her to diſmiſs me without aſking me in; and my Prudence getting the better of my Inclination to obey her Commands, gave the finiſhing Stroke to my Character of Diſintereſtedneſs.

HERE was an unavoidable Acquaintance made. Mr. *Secure*, who had ſent me word he would come, found it neceſſary to call upon me the next Morning to make his Excuſe, and to thank me for my Politeneſs to his Lady: He preſſed me to return his Viſit, and an Intimacy enſued which it was impoſſible for him to ſuppoſe was of my ſeeking. I dare believe that had I, or had any other Man addreſſed himſelf to Mrs. *Secure* at once as a Lover, he would have been repulſed as he deſerved; but the Women don't know what they do when they ſuffer a Man to become their Acquaintance who may at ſome time be their Lover. I was frequently at Mr. *Secure*'s, and Lady *Revell*, who kept herſelf from the Party, took care very frequently to have him with her at the Time, that I might have full Liberty to act:

She

She often preſſed to know what Advances I made, and had the Prudence to be ſatisfied with very ſlow, becauſe ſhe knew they would be very ſure ones.

It was evident enough that Mrs. *Secure* had no Diſlike to me, by the undiſſembled Pleaſure ſhe took in my Viſits. I improved the favourable Opinion ſhe entertained of me into Friendſhip; and Lady *Revell*, who was acquainted with every Step of my Proceedings, ſoon took Care to throw ſo much of her Huſband's Conduct open to her as ſhould give her Reaſon to complain: It was long before this Stratagem operated, but at length the expected Moment arrived. "Sir, ſays the unhappy Creature to me, I want to be adviſed: I know no Man ſo capable, none whoſe Opinion would be of ſo much Weight with me: I know you are above intereſted Views upon me; and I dare intruſt you with a Secret which would, in the Hands of any other Man that ſhould think me deſireable, entail a laſting Plague upon me. I reſpect you, continued ſhe, in no common Manner, for that honeſt Indifference with which you have always treated me; I love the Man to whom I

am married, and I muſt have hated any one who but attempted to alienate one tender Thought from him: But I have been deceived in ſuppoſing that he deſerved my Paſſion, or that he returned it. I find him criminal with a Lady whoſe Charms I am afraid will continue him ſo. This is a Secret with which I ſhould have intruſted no Man of whom I had not the moſt aſſured Opinion: I know I lay myſelf open to very unwarrantable Attacks by it, but I think I know to whom I do this: Be the generous, the diſintereſted Friend I have hitherto found you: Baniſh the Thought of an Attempt in which if you were to engage it would be impoſſible to ſucceed, and give me your Counſel how I ſhall reclaim a Man without whoſe Affection I muſt be miſerable."

I HAD ſet out in this Scheme with a Reſolution of never attacking the Virtue of the Lady who now threw herſelf under my Protection; but ſuch a miſchievous Power have the agreeable Women againſt themſelves, that I had not ſeen her twice, before I determined to rob her of that for which I principally admired her: However cautiouſly my Prudence might

might have played its Part, my Paſſion had gathered Strength every time I had ſeen her: I had reſolved to declare my unwarrantable Purpoſe to her but an Hour before ſhe gave me this promiſing Means of attacking her; and all that I could now reſolve upon, was not to make the Ruin of the Woman I admired the Conſequence of her giving herſelf up to me; but to uſe Lady *Revell*'s Aſſiſtance in gaining my Miſtreſs, without letting her reap the Advantages ſhe propoſed to herſelf from the Conqueſt.

THE Silence and Attention that accompanied my taking theſe ſecret Reſolutions were no Enemy to my Cauſe. I conſidered, before I ſpoke, that I had hitherto ſucceeded by Deceit, nay, and aſſured myſelf that nothing but Deceit could have carried it thus far: I determined to purſue the Plan that had been hitherto ſucceſsful, and after a very expreſſive Look, with nothing of Tenderneſs mixed with the Compaſſion it deſcribed, I took the Lady modeſtly by the Hand, and while her Colour changed twenty times in a Minute with the very Dread of what ſhe ſuppoſed I was going to ſay to her, "Ma-

dam, ſaid I, you muſt pardon me for giving Breath to a Thought which you now ought to know, but which, under any other Circumſtances, I would never have diſcloſed. Agreeable, nay charming as you are, I muſt confeſs you are not the kind of Beauty I ſhould ſigh for: Is it poſſible you can pardon ſuch a Declaration? I am not equal to the Taſk of deceiving you, and if you cannot, I muſt ſubmit to your Reſentment: I acknowledge you to have more Claim to Admiration than any Woman whoſe Face has commanded it from me; but there is ſomething unaccountable in the Capriciouſneſs of our Ideas of what ought to be the Object of Love, and I confeſs another kind of Beauty would have more Command of my Paſſions; though none ever did, or ever will lay an equal Claim to my Eſteem. If after this coarſe Declaration as a Lover, you can accept me as a Friend, be aſſured my Life and Soul are at your Diſpoſal; nor is there any Thing Honour can command that I will not have Pleaſure in executing in your Service."

TEARS of Gratitude overflowed the Eyes of my fair Companion as I ſpoke:

"Good

"Good Heaven, ſaid ſhe, is it poſſible there can be ſuch a Man upon the Earth! Is it poſſible that I can be ſo happy to know him! and that he ſhould have come in my Way at a Period in which I muſt have been mad if I could not have found a Friend to hear my Complaints, and to aſſiſt me! Generous Creature, continued ſhe, addreſſing herſelf to me after this Exclamation, I never ſhall be able to tell you my Senſe of this Frankneſs in your Behaviour. You have bound a wretched Creature to you for ever, who does not look on it as the ſlighteſt Part of her Misfortune that ſhe has nothing to pay ſuch Obligations: But add to them by telling me how I ſhall act in this difficult Scene that is before me.

LADY *Revell*, I well knew, was ſo very certain of her Conqueſt, and the Huſband of my fair Friend ſo firmly bound to her, that no Attempts could ſucceed againſt the Continuance of their Acquaintance. It was ſafe therefore to give the beſt and honeſteſt Advice in the World to the Perſon who aſked it of me, and ſhe had good Senſe enough to know that I did ſo. We often, after this, lamented our ill Succeſs

together, and Lady *Revell*, who was eager to know every Step of my Amour, enjoyed the Knowledge of my being her Rival's Confidant in ſo nice a Point, in private: She told me I was ſecure of her: I was as well convinced of this as herſelf: And only the unhappy Victim to this Stratagem was ignorant of her Danger. It is thus that we continually ſleep in Security, while every Eye but our own ſees the Ruin that is impending over us.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

A Pretence of having ſucceeded operates very happily for the compleating the Scheme: A deep Plot of Lady Revell's *facilitates it greatly.*

A Series of rational Attempts to reclaim the Huſband of my fair Friend were the Conſequence of the Reſolution we had entered upon of bringing him back, if poſſible, to his forſaken Home; but all without Succeſs: I had in all this time been ſo much upon my guard, that her Love had never peep'd thro' the Diſguiſe of the Friend, and the Lady's Heart and Soul were engaged to me, without her ſuppoſing her Paſſions had any Share in the Connection between us. I thought the Mine now ripe for an Exploſion, and had only to conſider the Means of firing the Train. Mr. *Secure* had grown, as all Men do when engaged in Ill, the worſe for Admonition: The Remonſtrances of his Lady had ſerved to no other Purpoſe, than the convincing him that ſhe knew his Fault; and in conſequence of this, he took the leſs Care to conceal the Circumſtances of it from her:

He in a Manner lived at Lady *Revell*'s; and his Abſence gave me ſufficient Opportunities of proſecuting my Deſign. I told that Lady one Morning, when Matters were at this Criſis, that I thought we were ripe for the finiſhing our Scheme: She fixed upon that Evening for the Time. She aſſured me, of keeping the Huſband out of the Way; and bid me only be there and leave the reſt to her.

THERE was hardly a Day the Half of which I did not ſpend at Mrs. *Secure*'s. I had drank Tea with her on the Afternoon of this determin'd one, and we were deep in Converſation on the old Subject, when the Signal of a Viſitor put me as much out of Humour with Impertinence, as ever I had been in my Life. Lady *Revell*'s was the laſt Quarter in the World from which I ſhould have expected Interruption at this time; but I was not half ſo deep a Schemer on theſe Occaſions as this Female Machiavel in Intrigue. A Servant entered, to give notice, that a Lady, he did not know, was coming up. Mrs. *Secure* had no more Mind to part with a Perſon with whom ſhe could ſpeak freely

on a Subject that took up all her Thoughts, than I had to be gone: She did not chuse that a Person who was not an Intimate, should find her in a *tete a tete* with a Man: She guessed a Visit from a Person who could not be an Intimate, by the Servant not knowing her could not be a long one; and after a thousand Apologies, asked me, if I could have the Indulgence to take a Book for a few troublesome Minutes in the next Room.

It was Rapture to me, to receive such a Command; but I had too much Curiosity to obey it to the Letter. The Servant who set me the Candles, was no sooner gone, than I threw down my Book. The Key-hole of the Door that communicated with the Room where the Ladies were, promised to let me into the Secrets of their Conversation. What was my Surprise, to distinguish in the first Sentence the Voice of my good Friend, Mrs. *Rondy*. It was easy for me to guess, that this Priestess of Love, could come only by the Appointment of Lady *Revell*; and I was soon let into the whole Intent of the Visit, by hearing her begin a Relation of what had passed that Instant be-

tween Mr. *Secure* and her Ladyſhip at her Houſe. Mrs. *Ready* kept up a very admirable Pretence to Decency and Character in the whole Relation. She began, with aſſuring the Lady, that ſhe was come of a good Family, though ſhe had fallen to decay; and that though ſhe was reduced to receive Company for her Support, ſhe never would ſubmit to ſee her Room made a Brothel: She excuſed herſelf for waiting on the Lady with ſo diſagreeable a Piece of Intelligence, but added, that as ſhe was the Perſon moſt injured, ſhe had a Right to know it; and after a thouſand Preliminaries of the ſame Kind, ſhe painted the Scene in ſuch warm Colours, that more than one Paſſion was rouſed in the Breaſt of Mrs. *Secure*; and ſhe fainted on the Settee on which ſhe was ſitting to hear the Story.

MRS. *Ready* cut her Lace and aſſiſted her with Water, that the Servants might not ſee her in the Confuſion which her Relation had thrown her into; and as ſoon as ſhe was a little recovered left her; after a thouſand Apologies for the diſagreeable Office, which her Duty to her good Ladyſhip had engaged her in.

THE

THE Departure of Mrs. *Ready* was my Signal for entering: The Lady was uneaſy at the Diſorder of her Dreſs, and made two or three Efforts to riſe to adjuſt it, but I play'd the Indifferent ſo artfully, that ſhe became convinced I ſaw nothing of it; and the Earneſtneſs of our Diſcourſe ſoon made herſelf forget it. She recounted to me all that I had heard before, only omitting the Circumſtances upon which the Author of the Story had dwelt ſo artfully: I received the Information of her Huſband's Falſhood, the Certainty of which we had neither of us had before, with a Concern that endeared me to her; and I added Condolence, that threw her into a Relapſe of her fainting. I took no Pains to remedy a Fit that I ſaw would not be dangerous: It held her under a Privation of Senſe for four or five Minutes; but what was her Confuſion on her Recovery, to find my Hand thruſt deep into her Boſom, and preſs'd tenderly upon her Heart.

THE Aſtoniſhment, the Concern, the Horror upon her Countenance is not to be deſcribed: She look'd upon me with a ſilent

lent Wildneſs, and was too much loſt in Thought to put my Hand away. I threw myſelf upon my Knees, and hiding my Face in her Lap, uttered with the greateſt Diſcompoſure imaginable; O, that this were all you had to accuſe me of!—Unhappy Innocent!—Devil, that I am, to have dar'd to do it, and to tell you of it!—Look up, cries the diſtracted fair One, and tell me, what can be added to the Miſery my Huſband's Crimes have thrown me into!—That, replied I haſtily, which you owe to mine.—O, moſt deſerving, moſt ill requited Woman, continued I, know that I am all a Lie; that under this ſpecious Pretence of Friendſhip, I have been purſuing your Ruin as a Lover; and that the Certainty of a Repulſe, which would have been fatal to me, deterred me from daring to aſk, what my Diſtraction has taken while you had no Life to refuſe it.

O! this was cruel, replied the Lady, ſinking upon me with a Flood of Tears,—I am a Martyr to my good Opinion of you.——I have fallen into this becauſe I could not ſuſpect it of you!

It never entered into the Imagination of this innocent Creature, that I had confeſſed a Crime of which I had not been guilty; and the Conſequence of my pretending to have ſucceeded was my ſucceeding, in what all the Arts in the World beſide would have laboured in vain to arrive at. It is an Unhappineſs in the univerſal Diſpoſition of the Sex, that thoſe who will ſtand againſt the moſt reſolute Attacks in the World, while they have the Field to themſelves, give up without Reſiſtance, or even Reluctance, after the firſt Advantage, be that ever ſo trifling: It is with Difficulty, that they defend the Fortreſs againſt our Attacks, while they have the Pride of poſſeſſing it entire to ſupport them; and no ſooner there is but a Pretence for our boaſting we have ſucceeded, than they think it not worth while to defend it from us any longer.

Mrs. *Secure*, whoſe Virtue nothing could have ſhaken while ſhe knew ſhe poſſeſſed herſelf unſullied, no ſooner ſuppoſed ſhe had been, though unknowingly, given up to me, than ſhe no longer entertained a Thought of reſiſting any fu-

ture Attacks. She rather lamented herſelf than chid me for what ſhe ſuppos'd was paſt; ſhe liſtened to all the Arguments my Paſſion ſuggeſted to me, that pleaded for her being at Liberty to diſpoſe of her Perſon as ſhe pleaſed, ſince her Fate had joined her to a Man, who neither deſir'd nor deſerved her: She hid her Bluſhes in my Neck while I pleaded my Paſſion to her, and abandoning herſelf to a Fate, which ſhe thought it in vain to reſiſt, when the Triumph was as ſhe thought over, ſhe own'd ſhe had always loved me, though ſhe had miſtaken that Paſſion for Friendſhip: She let her Arms fall about me, as ſhe liſten'd to my Proteſtations of eternal Conſtancy to her; ſhe would preſs me tenderly as I repeated my Expreſſions of Fondneſs, and at length ſhe ſunk upon the Settee and gave me freely what I only pretended to have ſtolen. We ſpent the Hours, in which I was certain of the Abſence of her Huſband, in Tranſports, which were on the Lady's Part a thouſand times the greater, becauſe they had not been expected: She gave herſelf up to my Diſcretion, as to the Hour to which I might ſtay, tho' without knowing why; and parted with

me

me when I thought it time, with an undiſſembled Reluctance.

I AM to confeſs, that inſtead of the Triumph which might be ſuppoſed likely to employ my Thoughts during the ſucceeding Night, it was the moſt diſagreeable one I had ever known. I looked upon the Stratagem I had employed againſt the Virtue of a Woman, who would have withſtood any other Attack, as Villainy; and I condemned myſelf as a Raviſher, even of what had been yielded to me ſo freely. I had not Reſolution enough to determine againſt a Repetition of my Fault; but I made ten thouſand Proteſtations againſt hurting the Perſon I had betrayed by the Conſequences of it.

I KNEW Lady *Revell* would be impatient to know the Succeſs of my concerted Attack. I waited on her early: I told her of every Effort I had made, but concealed the Succeſs of them: She curſed the fooliſh Prudery of Women, and diſmiſs'd me, with Admonitions to perſevere, for that no female Virtue could ſtand againſt continued Attempts.

I VISITED my Miſtreſs continually: I knew the Hours in which I was ſure of her Huſband: I took ſuch Precautions in my manner of coming, that only the Servants of the Family could have betrayed me to him, and they were too well fee'd to ſpeak on the wrong Side. Lady *Revell* all this while received me without any Appearance of Regard to my Perſon: I was ſenſible of the ſuperior Difficulty of the Conqueſt I had made in Mrs. *Secure*, and tho' I was too fond of that agreeable Miſtreſs, to think of any other Woman with Tenderneſs, I was piqu'd at the Indifference of this profeſs'd Libertine, and determined to make a laſt Effort, whenever I ſhould find an Opportunity.

I WAITED on her one Day to Dinner, to give her the Journal of my Proceedings: I found ſhe was not in a Humour to refuſe a Man that was at all agreeable to her. I began, by giving a very feeling Deſcription of my laſt Attempt upon Mrs. *Secure*, and as I ſaw more and more Fire in her Eyes while I continued the Narration, I roſe from my Seat in one of thoſe pretended Raptures, that have aſſiſted many a Man

Man farther than all the Rhetoric in the World would do, and catching the Lady boldly in my Arms, exclaimed, "Is it in Woman to repulse an Attack made with this Earneſtneſs." "Faith, ſays Lady *Revell*, with a conſenting Smile, I think no." And down we ſunk upon the Couch together.

THERE was a Time when an Intimacy with Lady *Revell* would have appeared in a very high Light to me, but at preſent it was much otherwiſe: We may pretend to be as much Enemies to Modeſty in the Women as we pleaſe, but it carries a Recommendation with it, even after the Innocence it was deſtined to be Guardian of is ſacrificed, that charms us infinitely beyond that Freedom we ſeem to deſire in a Miſtreſs. We wiſh to have a Woman as much a Woman as poſſible; and there is ſomething in that avowed Licentiouſneſs, which I don't know how to characteriſe better to thoſe who know Lady *Revell*, than by ſaying, it is the peculiar Mark of her Character, which, as it were, throws off the Sex, and while it ſeems to call us remiſs in the midſt of our warmeſt Ardours, takes off the Glory of a Conqueſt.

I KNEW not in what Rank I might ſtand with this experienced Lady as a Lover, but the Remembrance of the native Modeſty and Reſerve of the Woman I had juſt ſucceeded with, placed her in a lower Light than I believe ſhe ever appeared to any body as a Miſtreſs. You are a gallant Fellow truly, ſays Lady *Revell*, adjuſting herſelf, to have made two ſuch Conqueſts in two Days; but I don't wonder, continued ſhe, at your ſucceeding with that ignorant Creature, when you have been able to fool me. Here was the Beginning of a Storm, I as much expected as dreaded: I knew very well, that by my manner of proceeding in the Story, the Lady underſtood that the Concluſion would be, my telling her of my having ſucceeded: I led her into this Suppoſition, that her Pleaſure in the Succeſs of her Enterpriſe might put her into a good Humour, and aſſiſt me in my Deſign upon herſelf. That End was anſwered, and I now put on a melancholy Face, and anſwered, hang her, inſenſible Creature, ſhe has nothing of the Woman about her.

"WHAT!

"WHAT! exclaims the Lady, with an inexpreſſible Mixture of Surpriſe, Indignation and Diſdain, would you have me believe, the Attempt that has ſucceeded upon me, failed with her." There is no Paſſion in the Soul of Woman that will not ſink before the Power of Flattery: This was an additional Reſource of Rage that I had not been aware of; but I no ſooner anſwered, "Give her your Perſon, Madam, and perhaps I ſhall attack her next time, with as irreſiſtible a Violence," than a much ſofter Accent delivered: "So you really think me handſome." This made way for a thouſand Compliments, in Conſequence of which we became very good Friends again, and I parted at the Hour of Mr. *Secure*'s coming there on his Viſit, with a Promiſe to ſhut my Eyes, and fancy it was Lady *Revell* I was preſſing, in my next Attack upon his Wife.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

A very unexpected Visit from a Person who had a Right to be troublesome. Strange Consequences threatened.

IT was not without infinite Difficulty, that during a Fortnight of the happiest Intimacy in the World with Mrs. *Secure*, I perſuaded Lady *Revell*, with ſome new Pretence every Day, to believe I was repuls'd; but ſtill not hopeleſs. I am amazed when I recollect the Circumſtances, that I was able to deceive a Woman of ſuch Penetration in ſo flagrant an Inſtance: How long the Scene would have continued in that Situation, I am not able to determine, but an Accident now threw us into a Perplexity that plagued us very heartily.

WE don't imagine, when we flatter ourſelves with the Permanence of our Pleaſures, what trivial, and in themſelves contemptible, Incidents may diſconcert them. It was neceſſary for Mrs. *Secure* to be in ſome Degree in the Power of her Servants, tho' we had taken all poſſible Precaution to

to prevent her becoming too much ſo: they were none of them able to have ſaid that any thing criminal to their Knowledge paſſed between us; but they knew, that I was admitted at all Hours, and that my Viſits were always made in the Huſband's Abſence: We had placed our Confidence by Degrees in theſe People, and had purchaſed their Silence about their Suſpicions at a high rate. One of them was now taken ill, and by the Aſſiſtance of a Phyſician of Reputation died in four Days.

A NEW one was hired in her Place, and it is impoſſible to conceive, the Terrors we were in on the Subject of her reliſhing the neceſſary Secrecy: I was always an Enemy to Conſtraint: I had long been uneaſy under the Cautions we were forced to obſerve, in regard to theſe People: I now ventured to adviſe a new Method in our Pleaſures; and the Lady who gave up every thing to my Opinion, readily came into it. I propoſed taking Lodgings in ſome obſcure Part of the Town, where we might paſs for a young Couple, married without the Knowledge of our Relations, who could therefore only meet in private at ſtolen Opportunities. I had

kept

kept theſe Lodgings a Week, and the People, who thoroughly believed my Story, had been full of Secrecy and good Humour; when one Afternoon, juſt as my Miſtreſs was ſlipping out of her Chair in at the Door, ſome evil Genius brought Mrs. *Fringe* into ſo unlikely a Part of the World, for any body that could poſſibly have known either of us, to ſet their Foot in.

MRS. *Fringe* is one of thoſe uſeful Women, who, under the Pretence of ſelling *Dreſden* Work and artificial Flowers at the Ladies Houſes, manage their Intrigues for them. Mrs. *Secure* had bought of her; but Lady *Revell* was a Cuſtomer of the right Kind: She was enough in the Secrets of that Lady, to know it would be a very welcome Piece of News to her to hear of this Rival's going to a Place of Rendezvous, as it was evident this could be no other. Determined to do as much Miſchief as ſhe could; ſhe went to a Shop in the Neighbourhood, and after hearing as much as the People of it knew, told them a great deal more: She made out from them, who it was that met the Lady, and in return, communicated to them

who

who ſhe really was. She did not ſleep with the Diſcovery. Her firſt Viſit was to the Lady's Huſband, to whom ſhe ſold her Secret for five hundred Pounds, and the next to Lady *Revell*'s, where ſhe received no inconſiderable Gratuity for a Piece of Intelligence, in which ſhe little imagined that Lady was very nearly as much concerned as the Huſband.

I HAD hitherto, tho' at the Expence of no little Trouble, continued to keep that Lady perfectly ignorant of my Succeſs, but in hourly Expectation that I ſhould have it. I had been uſed to ſuch perfect Security in my Intrigue with Mrs. *Secure*, that I had no more Suſpicion of a Diſcovery, than if it had been out of the Power of Chance to make one. I was revelling in the utmoſt Tranquillity, when the Door of the Apartment in which we were burſt open, and Mr. *Secure* appeared with a diſtracted Rage in his Countenance. There was no Evidence of what paſſed between us; but the Appearances were too groſs to admit a Doubt. He ſent the Lady away in the Chair which had brought him, and without ſpeaking a Syllable,

pointed to my Sword, as an Indication of his Reſolution.

IT was in vain to attempt palliating a Thing ſo flagrant as the Cauſe of his Reſentment. I told him, he muſt indulge me in the Uſe of Piſtols, for that I had a Hurt in my Foot that rendered me incapable of ſtanding to make a Deciſion the way he propoſed: He aſſented with an impatient Silence. I produced the Piſtols I generally rode out with, and giving him one of them, waited the Death I deſerved for my Crime.

I HOPE there are few Men who have known the Horror of a Circumſtance like this: Thoſe who have will join with me, in aſſerting, that the utmoſt Raptures received from the Occaſion of it, bore no Proportion to its Terrors. There are many Men, whoſe Reſolution ſo far gets the better of that natural Dread every rational Creature muſt have of Death, that they will provoke a Hazard of this Kind, and will ſtand it undaunted. The boldeſt of theſe however never drew a Sword without an Anxiety that no other Circumſtance

ſtance of Life ever gave him; and this is tenfold, where one finds one's ſelf armed againſt a Man whom one has already injured. I never can forget the Shock under which I ſtood the Expectation of his Fire, determined to receive it without Return, not to add Murder to the Crime I had already been guilty of: He had determined on the ſame Conduct, tho' on a different Principle. As I had reſolved not to fire at all that I might not accumulate Horror upon myſelf, he had reſolved to reſerve his Piſtol till he was ſure of diſpatching me with it.

We ſtood with our Weapons aim'd, and with Looks that expreſs'd our Senſe of what we were about for ſome Moments: We at length mutually ſaw each other's Determination, and as he was the more urged to break it, he advanced toward me, with a determined Eye to come up to the ſame Sort of Certainty, as if I had been left defenceleſs. Human Nature could not ſuffer this; I fir'd, with Intent to break his Arm, but my Finger, as it pull'd the Trigger, drawing the Body of the Piſtol a little forward

with it, the Bullet entered his right Breaſt. He diſcharged his Piſtol as he fell, but with ſo little Aim, that the Ball entered the Cieling of the Room.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

A Deſpair of being reinſtated in Lady Revell's *good Opinion. Some ſtrangely lucky Circumſtances promiſe it.*

LADY *Revell*, who ſuſpected Miſchief, as ſoon as ſhe had been informed of the Place where our Meetings were, ordered her Chair thither; ſhe entered the Room juſt as the laſt Piſtol had been diſcharged. Her Rage is not to be pictured in Words. Love was the firſt Paſſion of her Soul, the ſecond, Pride. Both were here provoked to a Degree of Madneſs. She ſaw the Man ſhe was fond of, dying by a Hand, that ſhe had, tho' ignorantly of this Cataſtrophe, been the Means of arming againſt him; and in his Murtherer, ſhe ſaw a Creature of her own, who had deceived, enjoyed, and deſpiſed her: Her Vengeance againſt me would have made her regardleſs of his Preſervation: She had given Orders for the Officers of Juſtice, when I made myſelf the Meſſenger to a Surgeon. I diſappeared till I ſhould know the Event of the Wound Mr. *Secure* had received, and

felt in that Period, Agonies to which all others are below Regard. The Terrors of a Man, who dooms himſelf as the mildeſt poſſible Sentence to an eternal Exile from his Country, and who dreads every Footſtep he hears, as that of Officers in Purſuit of him, who are to bring him to a Priſon; are only to be felt: The livelieſt Imagination of him who has ſuffered them can never deſcribe them.

I SENT daily for News of the unhappy Huſband of my Miſtreſs, and I at length heard, that his Danger was over. I ventured to appear abroad again, but I found myſelf hated and deſpiſed by all who knew the Story. I heartily wiſhed that Death had been the Event of the Diſpute on my Part, to have ſaved me from what I had already felt, and what it was eaſy to perceive I had to ſuffer.—Alas! we know nothing of our own Unhappineſs: When we think we feel the ſevereſt Pangs of it, there are often in Store for us others to which theſe are trifling. When we give ourſelves up to Deſpair on account of thoſe which we foreſee, there are often a Thouſand worſe behind, of which we have no Apprehenſion. Innocence

cence indeed knows none of theſe; but I am writing as a guilty Creature, whoſe own Conſcientiouſneſs of his Crime alone, could it have been foreſeen, would have been ſufficient to have prevented the committing it.

I HAD no Thought of ever appearing before Lady *Revell* again; but what was my Amazement on opening a Letter, delivered to me by a Chairman, as I was going into a Coffee-houſe, to find it the Hand-writing of that Lady, and an Invitation to come immediately to her.—I dreaded a Storm, but I was miſtaken in my Fears; Lady *Revell* was a Woman of too much Addreſs to let her Paſſions interfere where ſhe had the Care of her Intereſts to attend. She received me with an unruffled Brow; and after telling me, ſhe ſhould avoid even the mention of what was ever and irrecoverable, ſhe proceeded in this Manner. "You know the Right I have to your Services, in regard to my Concerns with Mr. *Secure*, and you cannot diſpute my Privilege of requiring what I have purchaſed. I can pardon your deceiving me, by concealing your Succeſs, when I reflect, that young

Minds are eaſily taken with the Pleaſure of theſe Attachments, and that the giving me Notice of the Event, would have been attended with your loſing the Advantages of it. It will be eaſy for you to obtain more Meetings with your Miſtreſs, under the Security of my keeping the Huſband out of your Way. I am hardly ſorry that he knows beforehand what I always intended he ſhould be let into; and it will be eaſy for me now to prepare him in ſuch a Manner for the Diſcovery of her under proper Circumſtances, that he ſhall think of nothing but the Advantage that will accrue to us all from it." The Lady did not fail to repeat her Promiſe of my Reward for this honeſt Piece of Service, and offered, if I had any Scruples on that Head, to make it ſecure to me: She added ſome very ſevere, tho' hardly intelligible Threatenings; in Caſe of my but attempting to deceive her again; and after ſhe had finiſhed her Harangue, left me in her uſual Way, to take my Reſolution, without giving me an Opportunity of making her an Anſwer.

THE

THE ſmall Remains of Honeſty I had about me were put to a very ſevere Trial, in deliberating on my preſent Circumſtance. I had a little Money left, but not enough to be of any Uſe to me: I had a dreadful Proſpect before me in Caſe of my declining the Service Lady *Revell* expected from me; and on the Performance of it, I had a Certainty of an eaſy Fortune for Life. The Difference between Affluence and Beggary, did not fail to make the ſtrongeſt Impreſſions on me; but then on the other Hand, here was a Woman of infinite Merit, whom I had ſeduced and plunged into inextricable Miſery, and the Conſequence, the very Intent of what I was farther to execute, was the making her infamous and a Beggar. To my natural ſtrong Senſe of Right and Wrong, I had the additional Motive of a Paſſion that alone is capable of doing Wonders. I loved the Woman I had inadvertently expoſed to ſo much Miſery, could I add to it an infinitely greater Share by a Voluntary Act of Baſeneſs? I had the Courage to doom myſelf to Beggary, in the Place of the Woman I loved and had wronged. I wrote to Lady *Revell* in Terms too ob-

ſcare to be an Evidence of any Thing; but I aſſured her in general Terms, that ſhe muſt entertain no Hope of what ſhe had propoſed to me.

I WAITED her Anſwer with no common Terror; but had I foreſeen what it would have been, I ſhould have had too much Terror to have waited it at all. I had reconciled myſelf to the Thought of being turned looſe to the wide World to make my Fortune: But I had not conſidered, how far I was in the Power of this wicked and violent Woman. I had been an Hour, tired with waiting beyond the neceſſary Time, for her Ladyſhip's Reſolutions: But what was my Diſtraction, when on holding out my Hand to a Perſon, who came to me in the Habit of a Chairman, and whom, till he ſpoke, I did not diſcover not to be the ſame that I had ſent, I heard him ſay, "Yes, yes, Maſter, here is a Letter from the Lady for you ſure enough: Here's a ſmall Writ againſt you for two thouſand Pounds." Here was a Stroke it was impoſſible for me to have expected. I had already felt enough of the Preparatory Scene to a Priſon; here was a Proſpect of the deepeſt

Horrors

Horrors of it. It was ſome time before I recollected myſelf enough to conſider, that this was a Demand, which the Perſon who made it would never dare to bring before a Court of Juſtice. I took Courage on this Conſideration, and diſpatched a Meſſenger for an Attorney, with whom I had a ſlight Acquaintance.

The Bailiff, who now had me in his Hands, had nothing of that Politeneſs and Civility I had met with from the other; he made Objections to waiting at my Lodgings for the Lawyer's coming, telling me, all the Lawyers in the World did not ſignify a Half-penny, without I could pay the Money; and even told me, that as the Writ was for ſo large a Sum, he ſhould not venture to keep me at his Houſe longer than the four and twenty Hours he was required by Law, but ſhould deliver me to the County Jailor. I recollected from the Conduct of the Officer, into whoſe Hands I had before fallen, that the Behaviour of theſe People was ſuch as they were paid for: As the other had been clandeſtinely engaged to treat me with Civility, I could eaſily ſee this had been ordered to treat me with all poſſible Ri-

gour; I told him frankly, my Suſpicion, and adding, that I would overbid my Antagoniſt, had his Confeſſion of the Fact, and for twenty Pieces purchaſed from him all the Good-nature in the World.

BEFORE my Attorney arrived, I had ventured to give ſome obſcure Hints to the Bailiff, as to the Nature of the Demand, and had received his poſitive Opinion, that it was not good in Law; and as it was only a Quarrel, he bid me have a good Heart, for it would all come to nothing. I had ſome Spirits from this Opinion, and when my Lawyer arrived, I very frankly told him the whole Hiſtory of the pretended Debt, only concealing Names, and diſguiſing my having ſucceeded. At his firſt hearing the Story, he made a Laugh of the Demand, and told me, no Law in the World would give it her, even if ſhe dared to bring it before a Court; but on learning the Intention of a Divorce to be ſued for by the Huſband, he changed his Opinion. The Advantage his Profeſſion would get by ſuch a Proceſs, over-balanced the private Legality of my Defence. He adviſed me, by all Means to cloſe with the Plaintiff's Pro-

poſals, and begged I would recommend him to have the Management of the Huſband's Cauſe. The more I perſiſted in arguing againſt the Villainy of the Scheme, the more he preſſed my Compliance with it; and when he found no Arguments had any Weight with me, he looked very grave, and told me he would be glad to do me all the Service he could in my own Way, ſince I would not comply with the other, and concluded with aſking me if I had my Bail ready: This was a Demand as unexpected as the Original one of the Money. I told him I wondered he could ſuppoſe a Stranger in the World, as I was, could entertain but a Thought of any body's engaging themſelves for him in regard to ſuch a Sum. I added, that I was perfectly convinced, both by his Aſſurances and by my own Reaſon, that not a Farthing of this Money could ever be recovered, and that I was too well aſſured of the Juſtice of the Laws of my Country to be under any Apprehenſions of ſuffering by their Determination in a Cauſe in which I was innocent.

My Attorney's Anſwer was, that all this pompous Harangue tended to nothing

at

at all, that the Courſe of Law upon an Arreſt was, that the Defendant muſt either find Securities for his Appearance at the Trial, when the Merits of the Demand would be entered into, or that he muſt ſubmit to Confinement till that time; he ſaid he was very conſcious the Lady would never bring this into a Court, but that ſhe intended only to terrify me into her Terms; and added, that it was no uncommon Thing for People to be ſaddled with large Debts in this Way when they did not owe a Farthing, only in order to the keeping them out of the Way; and that the plain Alternative in this Caſe was, that I muſt either come to an Agreement with the Plaintiff or lie in Gaol till the next Term.

I WAS heartily diſſatisfied with my Lawyer: I diſmiſſed him and applied to another, but the Anſwer was the ſame; I found my Choice was to betray and ruin my Miſtreſs, or to ſubmit to the Horrors of a Dungeon: There is a ſullen Obſtinacy in the Mind of Man, which, though it ſeems a very bad Quality, often ſerves to good Purpoſes: I am apt to believe, if the Alternative now before me had offered itſelf while I was at Liberty, I ſhould

have

have given it againſt my Miſtreſs; but I had made a Reſolution, and I had too much Pride to be driven from it by any new Attack: I ſubmitted to my Fortune, and attended the Officer to his Houſe, whence I was now, in about eighteen Hours, to be delivered to a Priſon.

I HAD given up every Hope, every Thought of extricating myſelf from the Ruin that was before me, and the Period of my Removing was arrived, without my having taken any Step toward the preventing it. A Coach was ſent for, but before it arrived, a Chair brought into the Paſſage a Woman muffled up in a Diſhabille, who no ſooner entered the Room than I diſcovered that it was, the Cauſe of my Diſtreſs, Lady *Revell*. She put on a ſullen Reſerve, and told me, "You know you deſerve more than you are about to ſuffer. I am compaſſionate to impriſon you for this Money as a Debt: The Laws of this Kingdom make a Breach of Truſt *Felony*; and you are ſufficiently aſſured that your Crime is no leſs. I have a Right to your Life for what I have ſoftened into a Demand of this kind: But to confeſs what I never would have owned but on this Occaſion,

caſion, I love you: A Priſon is no Place for the only Man on Earth that can fill my Arms with Tranſport. Be adviſed, give up this puny Beauty, and in her Place take me. You ſhould bluſh at not having perceived long ſince, that what you miſtook for Hatred and intereſted Views, was Jealouſy: I could tear myſelf to Pieces when I ſee the Length to which I have carried it; but what will not Woman's Jealouſy do? Come, deareſt, beſt, worthieſt of the World, come from this Scene of Horror and Diſtreſs, and let me atone for the having plunged you into it on your own Conditions."—"You may releaſe your Priſoner, Sir," was a Sentence directed to the Bailiff almoſt in the ſame Breath with the laſt Declaration to me. I was following her in Silence to the Street: At the Door ſhe preſſed me by the Hand, and ſaid, "You will give up this hated Rival to me then, I know you have Honour, and your ſaying it leaves me no Shadow of a Doubt of your performing it." I anſwered haſtily, "No. I never ſaid it, nor will ever do it. If to ſee her no more will anſwer any of your Purpoſes, you have my Promiſe, which is inviolable, that I never will; but to ruin the Woman who has

ſacrificed

ſacrificed every thing to me, is a Piece of Villainy I never can or will conſent to." "Officer, take him again!" was now delivered with as much Impetuoſity as the Command for my Releaſe had been. "Fool, continued this Miſtreſs of Deceit, could you ſuppoſe me in earneſt in my Pretence of being fond of you, you know I always deſpiſed you: The Ruin of this Woman is a Point that I have made for intereſted Reaſons, and I will carry it: There is nothing I could not ſtoop to in the Attempt, even a Pretence of Fondneſs of you was not too low a Step on ſo important an Occaſion. But hear me, Wretch, and tremble, if you dare perſiſt an Inſtant longer in your imaginary Notions of Honour and Honeſty, that Inſtant carries me beyond the Reach of all Recall: I go to a Magiſtrate to charge you as a Felon; nor will I give any one Leave to make Application to me in your Favour: Your Life ſhall pay the Forfeit of a Treachery that deſerves a greater Puniſhment. Pronounce the Word that gives you Liberty or a Cell: Know, before you ſpeak, it is irrevocable, and now tell me whether you give up yourſelf, or the Woman whom I hate." I put on a Serenity of

Coun-

Countenance with a Heart that little became it, and answered, "Myself." The Lady got into her Chair without another Word, but her Servant was sent back in two Minutes, with Orders to the Fellow to keep me in his House half an Hour longer, for that she should send for me by a proper Messenger.

I HAD been strangely shocked at the first threatening of a Woman of this Address, and of so implacable a Temper: But I soon recollected that herself alone could be Evidence against me, and that she must even tell the Story, and that on Oath, before the Magistrate, before she could take the first Step toward attacking me on her new Plan: I was sufficiently convinced this could not be done, and I laughed at myself for my Terrors.

THOUGH it was easy for me to rid myself of this Fear, the other Distress was irremediable: Two Hours passed under Pretence of waiting the Lady's half Hour for my new Arraignment; at the End of this time the Officer put me in mind of his other Business. I submitted to what there was no avoiding: I employed,

ployed a Lawyer who could find no way of releaſing me, to remove me to the moſt agreeable Priſon I could have; and found myſelf, in a few Hours in genteel Lodgings upon *Ludgate-hill*, with a Liberty of viſiting all the Taverns, Coffee-houſes, *&c.* within a certain Diſtrict, and that by no means a contemptible one.

A WOMAN of Lady *Revell*'s Diſcernment could not but know, that a Shock of this kind would be infinitely more felt at firſt than when become habitual: She knew the Beginning of my Confinement was the only time in which ſhe had to work upon me, and in Conſequence of this I received Letters from her almoſt daily for the firſt Fortnight, full of a thouſand Stratagems, to prevail with me to accept of her Terms for my Liberty: Whether it were innate Honeſty or innate Pride that rendered me deaf to all of them, I ſhall not preſume to ſay. Certain it is that I was ſo. The Lady at length was convinced nothing could move me: But though her Expectations were over, her Reſentment was in full Force; ſhe determined I ſhould remain a Priſoner for Life: I received the Notice

Notice of this Reſolution in a Letter, which ſhe aſſured me ſhould be the laſt ſhe ſhould ever write to me; and ſhe kept her Word.

The END of the Second Book.

THE

THE ADVENTURES OF A VALET.

BOOK the Third.

In which the Character of Valet is aſſumed and continued.

CHAP. I.

The Life of a Gentleman in Priſon.—A Propoſal for the coining an Underſtanding.

THE Confinement, if it may be ſo called, of a Debtor who can purchaſe ſo much as I had done of his Freedom, is a very tolerable Condition to a Man who has a Fortune to ſupport

support him under it. I found many People in the same Situation with myself, whom not Necessity, but a dishonest Choice, continued in it, and who thought it vastly more eligible to spend the whole of their Income within such Bounds, than the half of it out of them. It was not my Business to declare my Circumstances to any body: I found it was not a Custom in the Place: Every Man was admitted into that Class of Company in which he was able to pay his Club, and no body had the ill Manners to enquire what were the Funds for enabling him to do it.

THE Rank I had for some time held in Life naturally threw me among the first Class of my Fellow-prisoners at large, and my Pride would not let me drop this so long as I had any thing to support it. I had brought with me a little Money, and after that was gone, I lived on my Cloaths, Watch, and every other Moveable I was Master of, till I found myself unable to pay for my next Dinner. I had not been without Thought all this while, but now something more than Thought was necessary. I was revolving a hundred impracticable Schemes at once, and giving them all up

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as such in the Moment of their Birth, when a very gentle Rap at the Door of my Apartment beſpoke ſome humble Viſiter.

FORTUNE often takes more Care of us than we deſerve, or than we do of ourſelves. Many a Man has found the Means of Relief by Accident in the Moment of his Diſtreſs, when all his Schemes have been fruitleſs, and a greater Number ſtill meet with the ſame ſort of miraculous Redreſs, when they have fallen into the ſame Neceſſity, without having been at the Pains of laying any Schemes at all about it. Fortune was in a Humour now to ſhower ſome of theſe her undeſerved Favours upon me: Whether I had the Claim of the Gentlemen of the firſt or of the ſecond Claſs to them, I have not at preſent Leiſure to determine.

FATE had brought into the ſame Situation with myſelf, a Perſon who had formerly been a Bookſeller, and who had the Mortification, like all other Schemers, of ſeeing at this time many of his Fraternity enriched by the very Plans which had brought him to Deſtruction. I had heard of this extraordinary Perſon, and he had been

been pointed out to me at ſome of the Coffee-houſes, though he was not of the Claſs to which I belonged. On opening my Door I was ſurpriſed with ſeeing it was this Gentleman who had given the Signal at it. He prefaced his Addreſs to me with a Multitude of Bows and Apologies, and after he had obtained a Promiſe of my Pardon for his Propoſal to me, though I ſhould not comply with it, he proceeded to tell me, that he had been the firſt Deſigner of a Number of Books which he named to me, and which I knew to be ſuch as were in the moſt univerſal Reputation at this time: "I have ruined myſelf, Sir, ſays he, by theſe ſeveral Works; and having brought myſelf hither by ſcheming, I think I have a Right to ſcheme myſelf out again." It was impoſſible for me to gueſs in what Manner I could be concerned in all this; but he proceeded to tell me, that he had now formed a Plan of a new Work, by which the Bookſellers whom he ſhould engage in it, and who had Money to ſupport it, would be enriched, while himſelf for the conducting it, and the *Author*, at which Word he bowed very low, for writing it, would be no inconſiderable Gainers. He now laid down his whole

Plan

Plan in a confuſed Manner, but ſo, however, that I underſtood the Drift and Intent of it. He concluded, "the Booksellers are ready, Sir, the Preſs is prepared, and there only wants a Gentleman of Genius and Spirit to carry it on. I humbly beg Pardon, if I offend you, Sir, but I am ſure, by what I have overheard of your Converſation at the Coffeehouſe, you can do it by way of Amuſement, if you pleaſe, and if you would accept of four Guineas a-week, by way of Pocket-money for it, we ſhould all be very happy."

THE *Iſraelites* were not more ſurprized or overjoyed at a Shower of Manna in the Wilderneſs, when they were ſtarving, than I, who was at this time in as fair a Way to be famiſhed, at the Mention of ſo happy a Reſource: I was diffident enough of my own Abilities as an Author; but it was not my Buſineſs to tell my Projector ſo: I accepted his Propoſal, and he flew to inform his Principals of the News. Theſe Gentlemen were extremely pleaſed with the Succeſs of their Embaſſador, and were in a very good Humour to encourage me in the Proſecution: They did not care to

truſt their Emiſſary too far in an Affair that required Delicacy, and that muſt remain a Secret; they inſtantly waited on me themſelves; we talked over the Plan; they were charmed with the Manner in which I propoſed to conduct the Work; and on removing a Book they had left on the Table, after they were gone, I had the inexpreſſible Pleaſure of finding ſixteen Guineas under it, with a Note informing me, that they begged Permiſſion to pay me a Month in advance.

I COMMENCED Author from this Moment, and it is probably to this Occurrence, gentle Reader, that thou oweſt the Publication of theſe Adventures. I don't well know with what Succeſs I have hitherto executed the arduous Taſk of entertaining the Public, farther than that all the Things I have written have been purchaſed by one Bookſeller or other; but be that as it may; I find there is no ſtopping. The Man who commences Writer is like him who commences Gameſter; it is fifty to one againſt him that he loſes his Reputation, but, like the other, be what will the Conſequences, the Itch of Writing continues,

and whether he wins or loſes, he keeps to the Trade for Life.

The Proſpect I had before me ſeemed now a very fair one; and the Expectations I built on my future Works, a thouſand of which I ſoon had in Embrio in my Brain, buoyed me very high during the firſt Month; but at the Period of this time I was a little let down by a Viſit from my Principals in the Work I was now engaged in, who ſunk me to half the Price they had at firſt agreed on. The next Month's Viſit brought me to a Guinea a-week, and before the Commencement of another the Work dropped. I could not blame the People who had reduced my Price in a Work which I now had the Mortification to receive evident Proof had not ſucceeded. I had not been at all prepared for a Shock like this, and was reduced pretty nearly to the Neceſſity in which the Projector who had ſet it on foot before found me. I was now reduced to the Neceſſity of ſcheming for myſelf: The Knowledge of my having ſo long ſupported a public Performance, was a Teſtimony that I had ſome Abilities, and I lived a Fortnight or three Weeks on ſcandalizing the Parents, Guardians, or

Creditors of my Fellow-priſoners, under diſguiſed Names, in one or other of the public Papers.

THIS Fund had been, at firſt, a very precarious one, but I at length found it exhauſted. I was Maſter but of one Guinea when I ſaw it neceſſary to enter on ſome new Plan for the getting another. I had hitherto lived by abuſing other People's Acquaintance, I thought it high time now to made my Bread of my own: I had often hinted the Circumſtances of my Misfortune to my Friend the Book-projector, whom I have mentioned as the Occaſion of my turning Author: I ſent to him and recounted the whole, not ſparing the very Name of Lady *Revell*, whom indeed I had no Shadow of Reaſon now to ſcreen. I only ſuppreſſed that of Mrs. *Secure*, giving a feigned one in the Place of it. "You were ſo kind, Sir, continued I, ſome time ſince to lay down the Plan of a Book for me, I now give you one: Will this pleaſe the World?" My Friend was in Rapture: He procured me an Agreement for thirty Guineas for the Copy of a Half Crown Novel in which this Story was to be told, and I inſtantly ſate down about

about it. I found it difficult now to get any Money in Advance, and in the Midſt of my Diſcontent on this Head, a Thought ſtruck me which there was no refuſing inſtant Compliance with. My getting Bread, difficult as I found it to do that, was not my ultimate Care in this Scene of Confinement, my Liberty, under which it would have been eaſy to have deviſed a thouſand better Ways of doing it, was an Object of my moſt eager Thoughts, tho' I knew not how to ſet about it. I had ſupported myſelf a Twelve-month under the Expectation of an Act of Inſolvency: It at length appeared, and I had the unſpeakable Diſtreſs of ſeeing a hundred other People ſet at Liberty by it, but it did nothing for me, who was charged with a Sum much beyond the Bounds of its Limitation to one Perſon. It had robbed me of moſt of my Friends and Companions, and left me without the Enjoyment of their Converſation, to bear what I had found very difficultly ſupportable with it: I had from this unhappy Period deſpaired of ever obtaining my Liberty; till I now thought I ſaw an Opportunity of making a bold Puſh for it, and was out of Patience with myſelf that I had not

attempted it before. I knew the Pride of Lady *Revell:* I knew the Caution with which ſhe guarded againſt public Cenſure in the Midſt of a Life of the moſt abandoned Libertiniſm. I drew up the Title of my intended Book, and ſent it by my Friend the Projector to her Ladyſhip, informing her that he was the Perſon who had the Care of printing it. She aſked him many Queſtions, and treated the Matter in ſo cavalier a Manner, that he was convinced it was all a Lie of my own raiſing, and that the Lady had never ſeen nor heard of ſuch a Man in her Life: She even threatened Ruin and Deſtruction to all who ſhould be concerned in publiſhing or diſperſing ſo infamous a Forgery, and was large on the Subject of no Perſon of Quality's Character being ſafe, if Things of this kind were not puniſhed with the utmoſt Severity. My Schemer heartily terrified with this Declaration, and thoroughly deceived by the Addreſs of the Lady, had no ſooner delivered the Circumſtances of it to me, than he ran to the People concerned in purchaſing the Copy: They were off their Bargain in an Inſtant, and I found myſelf, inſtead of the immenſe Advantages I had expected from this excellent

cellent Plan, robbed of the only Reſource I had againſt ſtarving. I was diſputing whether I ſhould hang or ſhoot myſelf; whether a Doſe of Arſenick or a Kniſe would give me the leaſt painful End to my Being, when a Gentleman whom I did not know entered my Chamber: He talked over the whole Hiſtory of Lady *Revell* with great Freedom, and told me that he had Commiſſion from her Ladyſhip to diſcharge me; and that ſhe had ſent me a Preſent of a ſmall Sum for my preſent Occaſions. With theſe Words he put into my Hands a Bank Note of a hundred Pounds, and told me, if I would wait on the Warden of the Fleet with him, we would from his Houſe go to any Tavern in Town to drink Lady *Revell*'s Health. "All Animoſities are over, you ſee, Sir, continued he, on the Lady's Part; and I hope they are ſo on yours: My Commiſſion from Lady *Revell*, continued he, extends no farther than I have delivered, but between Man and Man I think you ought to give her a Promiſe never to publiſh any ſuch Book as you was talking of."

I HAD at firſt ſeen through the whole Drift of the Lady's Tenderneſs and Com-

paſſion: My Scheme had ſucceeded as well, nay even better than I had dared to hope, and I had no Right to quarrel with Conditions which I had ſo much Reaſon to be ſatisfied with. I ſigned a Paper which my careful new Friend had brought with him, by which I made myſelf liable to the whole Debt I was now diſcharged from, if ever I publiſhed a certain Book whoſe Title was, *The Intrigues of Lady* R——. We went to the Warden, and from him into the Land of Liberty.

ALL good Things become what they are to us only by Compariſon: The very Liberty of walking into any Street I pleaſed, though I had no Buſineſs in it, was for a conſiderable time a Joy to me greater than I even now can expreſs. I rambled about for a Fortnight, though I had no where to go, and found Rapture in dining every Day at a new Ordinary: The World was before me, and I had no Determination in what Part of it, or to what Road of Life to fix: I had felt too much from Extravagance and Thoughtleſneſs to give abandonedly into it again: I took ſome Care of the little Sum I was poſſeſſed of, and I determined to fix on a Way of obtaining

more

more before it was expended. I had been bred to no Means of getting a Living: The Trade of an Author, diſcouraging as the Circumſtances were that I had met with in it, was all that ſeemed to promiſe me any thing: I ſate down to ſtudy; and ſoon liſted myſelf in the Service of a Bookſeller who had been uſed to write for himſelf, till he found his Time much better taken up in ſelling Volumes than in compoſing them.

I WAS under the Protection of this Patron of Genius half a Year. I was paid ſo much a Sheet for Writing, and conſequently my Advantage was proportioned to the Quantity, not to the Merit, of what I wrote. Every thing I produced was worſe than the laſt, and in the End he told me there was no employing me any longer, and fairly turned me adrift: From this Time I fell into ſtill lower and lower Hands, I wrote Seſſions Papers, and little Books for pretty Maſters and Miſſes, I had now-and-then a Crown for a Piece of Proſe for the *Kapelion*, and ſometimes a Poem for the *London Magazine* got me a Dinner: I appeared in the World under the borrowed

Characters of the *Fool* and the *Politician*, and have converſed with the Public weekly under the ſeveral Names of *Thomas Touchit*, *Walter Wagbucket*, and *Jonathan Free*: Under theſe Circumſtances I paſſed with leaſt Cenſure, becauſe I appeared in Works which no body read, and on the Credit of having been an Author in ſo many different Papers with Succeſs, I now and then was able to make a Bargain with ſome of the Bookſellers of the lower Claſs for a Sixpenny Pamphlet.

My Expences, during two Years in which I had ſupported myſelf in this Manner, had not been great, but my Profits had been too ſmall to ſupport them: I was dunned on all Hands for little Bills, and threatened with Severities if I did not diſcharge twenty of them at once: I knew too much of the Horrors of a Priſon, not to fly from the remoteſt Proſpect of one. I left my Lodgings, and hid myſelf in an obſcure Houſe within the Verge of the Court. The Park was open to me on one hand, and ſeveral Streets on the other: My few Friends, from whom I concealed my Lodgings, never ſuſpected me of Diſtreſs

Diſtreſs in my Circumſtances; but when they have preſſed me to go on a Party out of my Limits, I have been forced to confeſs, within myſelf, that I had only run into a Priſon in order to avoid one.

CHAP. II.

A very diſcouraging Scene preſents on all Parts.—An Attempt toward a final Remedy.

MY diſappearing in the Part of the Town where I had before reſided, became the Occaſion of ſeveral Writs being taken out againſt me, which though they were for ſmall Sums, would have diſtreſſed me as effectually as if they had been for larger, as I was no more in a Condition to pay one than the other. My frequent Appearance in the Park gave Suſpicion that my Lodgings, as well as my Walks, were in a Place of Protection; I was watched home by one of the Attendants of a Bailiff, who had his Commiſſion for ſeizing my Perſon in a properer Place, and the next Morning I received Notice from the Board of Green-cloth, that Application had been made to take me out of their Protection, and that as it would be granted, I was left to my Diſcretion after this Notice.

It would have required more Diſcretion than I was Maſter of to know what Courſe to take in ſo calamitous a Circumſtance: There was no Place where the Eye of Miſchief might not diſcover me, no Shadow of Expectation of any thing but a Priſon in Conſequence of my being taken. To ſtay was impoſſible, and I knew not whither to fly. My Misfortunes came all into my Mind at once; and I could hardly accuſe myſelf of having deſerved them: Involuntary Tears, the ſilent Teſtimonies of a broken Heart, paid, though ſomewhat prematurely, the Obſequies of one for whom no one elſe would weep; who knew not Friend, Father, or Relation in the World, but had hitherto lived among the human Species without being one of the Body they compoſed, unobſerved by, and unconnected with them. I had weighed the Sufferings I had met with againſt the Pleaſures that had fallen in my Way, and I fancied the Ballance to turn on the Side of Miſery: I looked forward and the Proſpect was inſupportable. I had no Expectations from the World, nor any thing that could recommend Life as worth my keeping. I loaded a Piſtol

with

with Hands which I condemned for trembling while they did it, and ſitting down upon the Bed clapped the Muzzle cloſe to my Head, to prevent Noiſe, and diſcharged it. I felt little: All that I remember is, the receiving a Wound and ſinking upon the Bed.

AFTER a few Moments I found myſelf recovered from ſomething more than Sleep: I ſeemed not to have awaked into my former Life, but to have received a new Exiſtence: Theſe Ideas laſted however but a Moment: I found myſelf ſurrounded by a Number of People, and ſaw a Form that, to my diſordered Fancy, beſpoke ſomething more perfect than Woman, paying a Tear to my Misfortunes, and ſupporting my Head by one Lilly-hand placed under my Chin, and with the other holding her Smelling-bottle to my Noſe.

BY ſome Accident I had a little changed the Direction of the Piſtol in drawing the Trigger, and the Ball coming out ſlanting had not pierced the Skull, but made a long and large Wound, which bled conſiderably. The Noiſe of the Piſtol had brought up the Miſtreſs of the Houſe, and every

every body elſe that was in it; and the Effuſion of Blood, more than the Effects of their Care, had brought me back to my Senſes. I caſt up my Eyes with a Look of Deſpair to the Lady who ſeemed ſo particularly compaſſionate to me, and hers on the Moment poured forth a Flood of Pity on me: The amiable Creature continued her Poſition, though not a little painful to her, till a Surgeon came: I did not diſcover, till then, that the Thumb of her Right-hand had been all this time preſſing upon a Veſſel that bled the moſt largely. The Surgeon releaſed her: He went thro' his Buſineſs, and, toward the Cloſe of it, wanting ſome Linen by way of Bandage, the Lady, who ſtill ſtood neareſt me, with Eyes ſpeaking unutterable Compaſſion, tore her Apron for that Purpoſe: The Surgeon ſhook his Head as he went out: every body looked dejected, and the Tears made their Way in Torrents from the Eyes that had before beſtowed ſo many ſingle ones to my Condition. I had longed to thank her a great while: I now wanted to tell her it was no Concern to me that I was not to live, and prevail with her to put an End to a Sorrow which had no juſt Foundation: I found Speech was not in my Power,

Power, I could only look what I meant: She underſtood it: She ſet herſelf down by my Bed-ſide, ſhe took my Hand between hers, and told me by her Eyes ſhe underſtood me; what ſhe ſpoke I had no Power of diſtinguiſhing.

WHEN ſhe had ſate by me ſome Minutes ſhe ſpoke to the Gentlewoman of the Houſe: An eaſy Chair was brought up, I was placed in it with the utmoſt Caution, my angelic Benefactreſs all the while ſupporting my Head; and with infinite Precautions I was carried down Stairs: I was had into an elegant Apartment, and the Lady, who would not leave me, turned her Back, and ſate with both her Hands before her Face while I was put to bed. From this Inſtant ſhe never parted from my Side, ſhe waſhed the Blood off my Face with an amazing Tenderneſs, and gazed upon me with a ſtrange Eagerneſs and Emotion, which ſerved but to call forth a tenfold Share of Compaſſion. Every thing that I ſwallowed was from her Hand; ſhe watched every Look to find what it was that could be agreeable to me, and at Night kept her Poſt at my Side, only dozing ſometimes for a few Moments,

with

with her Head upon my Pillow, and ſerving as a Support to mine, on the oppoſite Side to that on which it was wounded.

TOWARD Morning I made many feeble Efforts to get my Hand out of the Bed: She aſſiſted me with an unſpeakable Tenderneſs, but what was her Amazement, what were her Thoughts, to find the Intent of it was to have an Opportunity of laying it on hers: I preſſed it feebly, indeed, but feelingly; and my own Eyes ſpoke more than my Tongue could have done, when Tears of Gratitude and Fondneſs added a Softneſs to the Glances they threw toward her. Words cannot deſcribe the Mixture of Joy and Anguiſh, of Tranſport and Deſpair, that glowed in her Face on this unexpected Teſtimony of my feeling all ſhe had done for me. In the Midſt of this tender Scene my Surgeon entered, with two Aſſiſtants, with a Phyſician, whoſe Face declared he came to be preſent at an Operation, and with a terrible Apparatus of Inſtruments.

HORROR was in the Face of the Lady as they approached; the Phyſician felt my Pulſe, the Surgeon examined my Wound,

Wound; he brought firſt the Doctor's, and then his two Aſſiſtants Hands to the Place, and after making them diſtinctly and carefully examine the Bottom of the Hurt, they whiſpered a little, the Phyſician declared his Aſſent with a double Nod, attended with a ſhaking of his Head and lifting up his Hands, and the Youths who attended the Surgeon began to put the Inſtruments in Order. A Paleneſs like that of Death overſpread the Face of the Lady, while with an Eye that pierced the Doctor as he ſpoke, ſhe waited his Anſwer to ſome Queſtion: She trembled in every Limb as ſhe turned her Eyes upon the Inſtruments, in Conſequence of what he had ſaid to her: She clapped her Hands together in a Poſture of Intreaty, and with great Earneſtneſs pleaded againſt the Uſe of them. The whole Party was diſpleaſed; but ſhe perſiſted; they at length put up the horrid Apparatus, and ſhe diſmiſſed them with Fees that recovered all their good Humour. There was much Diſcourſe paſſed during this intereſting Period; but I could only judge of the Purport of it by the Motion of the Lips, and the Geſtures that attended it.

WHEN the Sons of *Galen* were gone, ſhe leaned over me, and breathed Sighs that might have given a Soul, had it been departed. The Hiſtory of what I had form'd but an imperfect Idea of, while it was tranſacting before my Eyes, I was informed afterwards was this. The Ball, that had not pierced my Skull, had made what the Surgeons term a Depreſſion in it: It was this Hollow which the Operator had made the Party he brought with him ſenſible of, by introducing their Fingers in a manner into it, and to the preſſing of the Skull upon the Brain in this Part, was owing my Loſs of Speech and Hearing. This was the Circumſtance that threatened me; and the Apparatus which the Surgeon had brought was that for the Operation of trepanning, in order to relieve me. The Lady, who intereſted herſelf ſo tenderly about me, had prevailed with them but to reſpite the Operation a few Hours, and happily, before they came to perform it, Nature had rendered it unneceſſary.

ABOUT Noon I began to hear, though very indiſtinctly: What was the Joy of my fair Friend to find that I underſtood, in

in part, at leaſt, the Expreſſions of Tenderneſs which her Deſpair was breathing over me; but how infinitely greater was her Triumph to hear me ſoon after begin to ſpeak! Her Joy ſcarce left her Words to tell the Surgeon this on his entering the Room: But on examining the Wound he ſoon found the Occaſion of it. It is amazing what Nature will ſometimes do in theſe Caſes; the Preſſure and Motion of the Brain had already begun to force out the dented Part of the Skull to its Place again: The Surgeon declared the Operation unneceſſary, and by the next Day the Bone had recovered its right Place and Figure.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

A Love Scene of a very extraordinary kind, promiſes great Matters.

I HAD now Opportunity and Abilities to enquire into the Nature of my Situation, and to thank the Guardian-Angel to whom I owed ſo much. I did not ſpeak a Word to her but ſhe anſwered me with Tears: Joy of my Recovery now called forth theſe tender, theſe undiſſembling Inſtances of Affection as plentifully as Deſpair had done before. I told her all that I ſaw about me was Myſtery and Amazement: By what Means I had fallen under her Protection, or what kind of Title I could have to the thouſand Obligations ſhe had laid on me, was beyond my utmoſt Power of gueſſing; but, concluded I, there is ſtill ſomething behind, without which all that you have done is Cruelty: I cannot ſee you without Adoration: I cannot recollect the Debt I owe you without adding even to that Devotion: And yet, O give me the only Hand in the World I can ever wiſh to preſs, while I dare to ſay it. Yet I muſt increaſe the Obligation,

Obligation, or cancel all Pretence even to Gratitude: Let me love you, Angel as you are, let me love you, or ſet the Price upon the Obligations I already have to you, and let me know how I can acquit myſelf of them. Her Face, and even her Neck, were covered with a Glow of eloquent Crimſon as I ſpoke. She hardly gave me leave to conclude, when with an eager Rapidity ſhe pronounced, "You have o'erpaid them all by the Demand. Indeed you owe me nothing. I have been mercenary in all I have done: Intereſted Views have ſwayed me to what has appeared Nobleneſs of Spirit and Generoſity: I loved you the Moment I ſaw you, pale and bloody as you were, there was ſomething that charmed me in you, and I confeſs that I have been careful of your Life for my own Sake. I will confeſs to you, concluded ſhe, that if you can tell me now your Heart is another's, I ſhall curſe myſelf for preſerving you."

ANOTHER Man might have ſunk his Ideas of this Lady's Merit in what ſhe had been doing, on his knowing that Motives ſo different from the glorious ones he had ſuppoſed, had influenced her Conduct; but

but it was otherwiſe with me: I had fixed my Heart and my Affections on my Benefactreſs, and was infinitely more charmed to find Love had been the Inſpirer of all her Kindneſſes to me, than if I had owed them to a more virtuous Principle. Such Wretches are we when influenced by our Paſſions! ſo weak is Reaſon when put in the Scale againſt them!

I was reduced to an extremely faint Condition by the Loſs of Blood from the Wound: My Strength was at a very low Ebb; but, ſuch as it was, I employed it all in throwing my Arms about my glorious Miſtreſs: I preſſed her with an honeſt Extaſy: The Tranſport I felt was too much for my feeble Spirits, and I fainted upon her Boſom. She had no ſooner brought me to my Senſes again than ſhe threw herſelf upon the Bed by me, and charmed me with a thouſand innocent Wantonneſſes: She was all Rapture, all Chearfulneſs and Tranquillity: She bluſhed and laughed, and hid her Face with the Sheet, while ſhe begged I would let her come to bed. She did not pay me ſo ill a Compliment as to wait for my Anſwer; her Cloaths were off, and the ſweeteſt Face in the World

was

was hid in my Boſom in a Moment. Before ſhe ventured to look up, ſhe told me that ſhe knew my Situation had ſpoiled me for a Raviſher for the preſent, elſe ſhe ſhould not have taken this ſtrange Step. "My Perſon, continued ſhe, Sir, is engaged, though my Heart is free; all that I have I give you; more than I can with Honour, you will never receive from me: If you are ſatisfied with theſe Conditions, you ſee how far I dare be yours." I ſmiled while I told her, that at preſent ſhe gave me all I could aſk; that as to the reſt it was in vain to anticipate Deſpair; and that we would talk about it when it would be more Virtue to refuſe me.

I AM apt to believe there never was a much ſtranger Scene than that in which I was now an Actor: No Effort toward Indecency paſſed on either Side, but we found the Way to be mutually charmed, I know not which of us in the greater Degree; and when ſhe got up toward Evening, I believe we parted with more Fondneſs for one another than ever two Lovers, who had been in the ſame Situation, did before. The Lady's getting up was only to give Orders, and to ſup; we renewed our

Intimacy

Intimacy after an Hour or two, and as our Hearts and Imaginations were too busy to let us sleep, we soon fell into a Conversation which let me into what I doubt not, gentle Reader, but thou hast a pressing Inclination to know at this time, which is, who this Lady was. This thou shalt be informed in the next Chapter.

CHAP. IV.

A Supply of Money renders the preſent Situation leſs inſupportable.

MRS. *Love*, to whoſe Acquaintance I had been thus remarkably introduced, and whoſe Care of me would have done Honour to a better Motive than that from which it proceeded, was a Woman of Family: She had the Advantage of a very perfect Education, and had Talents formed for improving ſuch Aſſiſtances: She was indeed one of the moſt accompliſhed Women my Acquaintance with the Sex had ever brought to my Knowledge: She had married not over prudently when very young; ſhe had become a Widow at nineteen, and had liſtened to Sollicitations ſoon after, from one of the moſt agreeable Men in the World, which ſhe had not, till it was too late to go back, diſcovered to be diſhonourable ones.

THE inexorable Temper of her Relations, while it denied her Pardon for this Fault, from which ſhe had flown as ſoon as ſhe had committed it, threw her into

the Way of others: She had gone thro' the Hands of three or four young People of Fortune, and was at this time under the Protection of a foreign Miniſter, who ſupported her elegantly in private Lodgings, and had Diſcernment enough to ſee that he ought to ſet her much above the Level of ordinary Miſtreſſes. This Lady, I now found, lived in the beſt Apartments of the ſame Houſe in which I lodged: The Noiſe of the Piſtol had called her up among the reſt of the Family to my Room, and ſomething, which as ſhe now told me ſhe knew not how to account for, poſſeſſed her with a Fondneſs for me at Sight, that had prompted her to all the Kindneſſes ſhe had ſhewn me. She perſiſted in declaring, that though ſhe indulged herſelf in every Freedom it was poſſible to take with me, under my preſent weak Circumſtances, ſhe would never allow me more; that my preſent Situation was the only Circumſtance in the World that could have induced her to what ſhe did; and that ſhe had too much Gratitude, and ſhe hoped too much Honour, in her Nature, to deceive the Man who did not ſuſpect her, or to rob him who paid infinitely too large

a Price for her Perſon, of what was its principal Recommendation to him.

I LAUGHED at theſe ſcrupulous Reſolutions, though I ſaw the Lady who made them was in perfect earneſt, and believed ſhe ſhould keep them: I had a thouſand Marks of her Fondneſs every Hour, and grew impatient for my Recovery, that I might make a proper Uſe of it. She attended me with the ſame Aſſiduity as ſhe had done from the Beginning, and perſiſted in her Reſolution of not leaving me, though ſhe received repeated Meſſages from him who had a Right to command her Obedience. She had told him at firſt the Story of my Raſhneſs, and he had Generoſity and Honour enough to applaud her for her Care of me; and had too much Confidence in her to entertain the leaſt Doubt as to the circumſtantial Truth of the Story, or of her Motives for the Kindneſſes ſhe had ſhewn me.

IT was long before ſhe ventured to hint at a Deſire of inquiring into the Cauſe of my Attempt upon myſelf. She at laſt did it with ſuch a genuine Candour and Tenderneſs, that I told her the whole Story

Story of my Diſtreſs. She informed me that, during the Period of my greateſt Danger, ſhe had diſcharged two or three trifling Demands which had come in an odd Manner, and concluded, "My Fortune is but a very ſlender one, but ſuch as it is, you need not be told it is yours." She felt for me more, I think, than I at any time did for myſelf; ſhe ſaw I could not ſtoop to accept Money as a Gift; ſhe lent me more than I had Occaſion for; and would have carried her Generoſity to a much higher Pitch, if I would have permitted it.

We all this time ſpent the greater Part of our Hours in Bed: I often bantered her on the Subject of her *not violating her ſacred Faith to Hector*; but as I ſaw that notwithſtanding all the Freedom ſhe treated me with, ſhe had a real Reſolution of not becoming criminal with me, I determined to be cautious, and not to put her upon her Guard by making any Attempt till I was ſecure of ſucceeding.

Ease of Mind contributed greatly to my Recovery; I was happy, and I gained Strength apace: I pretended to

be convinced of the Juſtice of her Reſolutions, and to ſubmit to them, as I grew in a Condition to profit of ſuch an Artifice. I ſeized the Opportunity of one of her fondeſt and moſt unguarded Moments, and made what I expected to have called a Conqueſt by Surprize, rather than an Attempt. I was deceived in my Imaginations: The Lady had the Addreſs to elude my Intention: She laughed at me, and was out of Bed before I could reconcile myſelf to the Belief of her having eſcaped me. With all the tender Eloquence of Love I wooed her to come back. She coolly refuſed. She told me ſhe was not angry with me for the Attempt, for that ſhe ſhould have deſpiſed me if I had not made it, but that ſhe ſhould deſpiſe herſelf more, if ſhe thought it poſſible ſhe could comply with it. From this Inſtant, continued ſhe, we are, if you pleaſe, Friends, Lovers, if you chooſe to call People ſo who are debarred of all the Advantages of the Paſſion, and if it ever ſhould happen that I am releaſed from my preſent Engagements, why you ſhall ſee that your Deſires are poor to mine; till then a Submiſſion to this Injunction is the Band of our Acquaintance, which, when you tranſgreſs,

greſs, be aſſured I will puniſh myſelf for having loved you, with the Pain of parting with you.

ROMANTIC as all this ſeemed, I found the Lady was perfectly in earneſt in it. I had nothing for it but to accept her Friendſhip on her own Conditions. I loved her, and if I had not, Gratitude would have bound me to her for ever. I was deſtined to my own Apartment again, and under the moſt ſolemn Engagements never to make ſuch another raſh Attempt upon myſelf, was happy in ſeeing the new Miſtreſs of my Heart ſo. The Proprietor of this Lady's Favours was received upon the uſual Footing, and ſhe accepted his Commands with her accuſtomed Obedience; but notwithſtanding theſe Engagements, the greater Part of her Hours were mine; I had no Joy but in being with her, and ſhe robbed me of no Opportunity of it: It was a ſtrange Scene of mutual Fondneſs and determined Reſerve, but we never once broke through the Limits ſhe had given; and I don't know whether I do not to this Day honour her more for her Fidelity to the Man who confided in her,

than I ſhould have loved her for complying with my Sollicitations.

WE often talked over my private Affairs; and this generous Creature could not be content with the Happineſs which ſhe frankly confeſſed my Company gave her unleſs ſhe ſaw me eaſy. She had an Opportunity by living in the ſame Houſe with me, and being indeed in a manner always with me, of ſeeing much of the Diſtreſs I was in from frequent Demands. She took a Liberty ſhe had never done before, one Day as we were dining together without any Attendant, and preſſed me to lay ſome Plan for my future Life. I frankly told her I ſaw no Means of it: That my Education had been intended to qualify me for ſomething I ſhould now never have the Means of attaining, and had fitted me for nothing elſe: That I had for ſome time ſubſiſted myſelf on my Productions as an Author, but that the Bookſellers who printed my Works always grumbled, and that they had now reduced my Price ſo low, that the tranſcribing Parchments for Lawyers would be as profitable an Employ; that it was owing to her Generoſity alone, that I had not long before periſhed

riſhed for Want, and concluded I, Madam, I have none but you to whom I am accountable; I had at that time no one's Leave to aſk for what I intended from the Incident which brought me to your Knowledge, but I am ſince fully convinced that it was right: I am equally convinced that it would now be right, but I have your Permiſſion to aſk before I can with Juſtice do it. You have a Right to a Life you have ſo immediately preſerved, and as I know you will not give it up, I neither aſk it nor will do what I know I ought without it. Careful as I now am in my Conduct, concluded I, Debts grow upon me, I have no Means of diſcharging them, and the Horrors of a Priſon are before me; but even theſe I ſhall prefer to diſobeying you.

THESE Terrors, replied the Lady, with ſome Degree of Satisfaction in her Face, I will take the Care of diſpelling: The reſt we will think of afterwards. I told her there was a Myſtery in all this which I could not unriddle; but added I, you ſee me humbled to any thing: If your ſuperior Underſtanding can find the Means of Life for me, independent of your private Generoſity, propoſe them, and call

me Villain if I make a Scruple. The Hour of her attending his Excellence was now arrived: She went to the Man who would have given Worlds for what I poſſeſſed, her Heart; and who only ſupported the Senſe he had of his not having it, on the Suppoſition that no other had: In this only ſhe deceived him. I retired to my Apartment with ſuch a Mixture of Triumph in her Eſteem, and Deſpondency in my Circumſtances, as perhaps none but my own ever did or ever will feel.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

The Favour of Mrs. Love *procures the Means of Security for her Gallant.—An Interview of his with the Protector of that Lady.*

THE Idol of my Adoration was an Hour later than her uſual Time before ſhe arrived the following Morning. She told me ſhe had been employed in my Service, and produced an Inſtrument by which I was inrolled in the Liſt of Domeſticks of another Foreigner, not the Perſon on whom ſhe depended, and by which I was ſecured from Arreſts. "Here, ſaid ſhe, this ought to be an acceptable Preſent to you: You are not to mind the Form of it, the Meaning only is that your Perſon is ſafe: You will do well to thank your nominal Maſter this Morning for it; after that his Perſon and his Houſe may be as much Strangers to you as they were before. You won't blame my Caution, continued ſhe, that the Name of my Protector is not at the Head of the Paper, though I will never deſerve his Suſpicion on your, and then I need not ſay on any bo-

dy's Account, Accident may ſome time throw me under it, and the having ſollicited a Favour from him on your Account, would then ſeem a Proof of my Baſeneſs, and add to it the Appearance of a double Treachery: Your Purpoſe is anſwered as well this way, and I am placed out of the Reach of Slander by the Caution."

I THANKED her on my Knees. I told her I was as happy in her Care for her own Character as in that for my Security. No Man who has not known the Terrors of a Priſon, and the yet greater Horror of the Expectation of it, after knowing what it is, can conceive the Tranſport with which I received this Inſtrument of Security. I went on the Inſtant to pay my Thanks to the Perſon from whom I had received it, and I had Occaſion to produce it no leſs than twice in my Way to his Houſe.

ON ſending in my Name, I was, after a little Stay, admitted into a Parlour, in an Arm-chair at the upper End of which lolled, in all the Majeſty of Indolence, the Patron of my Fortune. He received me with an Air of great Good-nature, but with a Superiority not leſs than that of an

an Eaſtern Emperor to the Creatures of his Pleaſure, who proſtrate themſelves before his Foorſtool. "Mrs. *Love* has ſaid ſo much in your Favour, Sir, ſays he, that I was deſirous of ſeeing you. I am glad I had the Power of contributing ſo far to your Peace of Mind as to give you an abſolute Security of Perſon; but is there any thing farther I can do for you?"

THE Senſe of my preſent Situation gave me a Humility that correſponded well with the majeſtic Deportment of my Patron. I told him I had no Right to that Lady's good Offices, much leſs to his: But that if there were any Means of Life for a young Creature, who ſeemed to himſelf an Outcaſt of the World; who had not nor ever could remember, that he had Parent, Friend, or Guardian, I ſhould be happy to accept it.

"Your Manner, Sir, continued my Patron, ſpeaks you a Gentleman. I am afraid I have nothing to offer that would not affront that Character: If you have Means to ſupport it, forget that I ever thought of you; if you find that impoſſible, apply to me again."

I RE-

I REPLIED, that I did not even know I had a Right to the Title he was pleaſed to favour me with; that if I had, thoſe who honoured me with it, had left me without all Means of ſupporting it; that I had no Attempts to make on this Head, nor any Reſolutions to take about it; that I threw myſelf at his Feet for Protection of more Kinds than one, if he would be pleaſed to beſtow it; and that there was no Intention of Kindneſs he could have to me that I ſhould not accept with Gratitude. He told me I might look over the Inſtrument he had ſent me that Morning at my Leiſure, and that if I was inclined to accept of it to the Letter, the Security of which was all he ſuppoſed I ſhould have required, he ſhould be glad of me about his Perſon; and that if I declined it, he deſired I would remember that my own Humility had thrown it in his Way to make the Offer. He recommended it to me to conſult my fair Friend on the Propoſal, and diſmiſſed me with as much Majeſty as he had received me, never having once altered his Poſture during the whole Diſcourſe.

I NEVER

I NEVER met with ſuch a Mixture of Haughtineſs and Candour in my Life. The Miniſter ſeemed to act while the Man ſpoke. I was not uſed to the Airs of a Superior; but I reconciled myſelf to it from the juſt Foundation there now was for it; and while I reverenced the Embaſſador, I loved the Man. I left him with many Bows, while he, as *Milton* phraſes it, *from his kingly State declin'd not*; even a Stoop of the Head was not returned to all my Civilities. I left the Houſe full of Thought: I looked on this as the Opening of a new Period of my Life. I reconciled myſelf to the forgetting every Article of it that was paſt, as the only Means of ſubmitting to what was offered me as the future. I determined to deliberate ſeriouſly on the Circumſtance: I diſobeyed my Patron in his Command of making my fair Friend of my Council, and after an Hour's more ſerious Thought than I can remember ever to have known before, I diſpatched two Letters from the Coffee-houſe where I had ſate down to conſider of it, the one to my Patron to tell him I accepted his Propoſal, the other to my Miſtreſs, to inform her that I had taken a Step

a Step which rendered it impoſſible for me to ſee her any more.

I HAD now entered myſelf as Valet de Chambre to the Miniſter whoſe Protection had been procured for me: In anſwer to my Letter to him, I received his Commands, delivered by the Mouth of one of the Footmen, to attend him: I had ſcarce entered the Door of the Room where he was, when my fair Friend burſt in after me, without paying any ſort of Reſpect to the Preſence of the Embaſſador. "I deſire to know, ſays ſhe haſtily to me, what is the Meaning of your Letter? I knew not whence you had directed it, and came hither to enquire where I might find you." I anſwered her with great Confuſion, "I am the menial Servant of his Excellence." She gave ſome Tears to my departed Character, and went out without another Word.

IT was my Buſineſs to remain where I was; my Maſter ordered the other Servants out of the Room, and ſtrictly charging me not to ſet out with deceiving him, aſked me whether I was not very happy with that Lady? My Anſwer informed

formed him of the whole Truth; and I added, that I now was in a Rank of Life which forbad my thinking of continuing even my innocent Acquaintance with her; that the Purport of the Letter I had ſent her was only this, that I told her I had taken a Step which forbad my ever ſpeaking to her again; and I added that I could never forget myſelf ſo far as to affront her with but the Remembrance of my having had the Honour of converſing with her.

My new Maſter complimented me on the juſt Senſe I entertained of my Condition, and told me he thought he ſaw Qualifications in me that would juſtify him in mending it. He told me the Hiſtory of *Europe* could furniſh Inſtances of Changes as great as that of the riſing from my Station to ſomething very near the Dignity of his own: He gave me Aſſurances of his preſent good Intentions to me, and hoped I ſhould improve, not forfeit them hereafter.

I was happy in finding my Poſt wholly about my Maſter's Perſon, and that I was at no time mixed with the Servants of the Family. I eat at an Ordinary among Officers

Officers and Foreigners of the Rank of Gentlemen, though of reduced Fortunes, and by Degrees reconciled myſelf to the appearing in Public in Company with the Surgeon and other Domeſticks of Rank in the Families of the other Miniſters. I was at firſt ſufficiently aukward in my new Employ, but it was expected, and was overlooked: I began to be more ready by a little Practice; but I ſtill ſaw other People in the ſame Office ſo much better qualified for it, that I honeſtly wondered what could induce the Perſon with whom I lived to continue me in his Service.

To know one of the Foreigners reſiding in this Town is to know them all. I ſoon became acquainted with the Affairs, the ſecret Hiſtory, and even the Amours, not only of my own Maſter, but of thoſe of all the People I converſed with. With what Amazement did I receive the Information that the Excellency I ſerved, and whoſe kingly, or more than kingly Deportment, had inſpired me with ſomething like Veneration for him, had not ſo much allowed him a-year by his Court as I had been uſed to ſpend in a Quarter: But the Foreigners are all Oeconomiſts, and have the

the Art of ſtarving and making a Figure at the ſame time vaſtly beyond the *Engliſh*. My Office in the Service of this Gentleman did not place me at Table at the Entertainments he gave; but I found Means to be within hearing ſometimes, at thoſe of the other Miniſters at which he was preſent. What was my Aſtoniſhment, at finding that the Man whom I had been uſed to reverence, as ſomewhat like a Deity, was the Jeſt, the Butt of Banter for the People, with whom I thought he converſed upon a footing of Equality; that he whom I had eſteemed the Mirror of Dignity, was amongſt theſe People, received only as the Buffoon of the Company! His Appearance was the Jeſt of all theſe People, who knowing his Funds, wondered how the Devil he ſupported it; and his Amours, which they were all convinced, never had, in any ſingle Inſtance reached beyond the Bounds of an Attempt to an Intrigue, were the laſting Subject of the Raillery of his Companions. He was always looked upon as the general Rival of the whole Set of Foreigners; for having no Taſte of his own, he conſtantly admired the Women they ſupported, and was ſo ſure of the Contempt

of

of his ſeveral Miſtreſſes, that not a Man of them ever condeſcended to be uneaſy about him. A Smartneſs of Air; a fine Cleanneſs of Limbs; that Vivacity which naturally attends a Littleneſs of Stature, and a Pertneſs, which never fails to attend the Conſciouſneſs of a good Figure in a very young Mind, uſually recommended him to the Women he attacked; but the dreaded Loquacity of his Tongue, and the Emptyneſs of his Purſe, never failed to over-ballance all thoſe Perfections. He had made Attempts upon the ſeveral Miſtreſſes of every Man of his Acquaintance, without ever having injured any one of them; and if his preſent Attacks were unknown, there never wanted a ſufficient Fund of Raillery from ſome of the old ones. Some of his Brother Miniſters pretended Friendſhip, and others pretended Animoſities againſt him: He was equally the Dupe to both, and the Fund of Merriment, from his diſcloſing the Secrets he had received in Confidence from the one, and his Terrors from the Reſentments of the other from concerted Quarrels, was inexhauſtible. I was heartily mortified, at diſcovering the ridiculous Inſignificancy of the Man I ſerved:

ved: If I deſpiſed him for aſſuming an Importance, which nobody but himſelf and I allowed him, I hated him for having deceived me into an Opinion of ſo much Reſpect being due to him. I grew tired of living in a mean Office, under ſo mean a Protector. I had long wondered he had not been tired of me, but the Secret now diſcloſed itſelf. I found he was at this time in Love with the Miſtreſs of the greateſt Friend he had in the World, and that this was no other than the Lady, by whoſe Means I became recommended to him; the Secret of his taking me at firſt, and that of his continuing content with me under all the Diſadvantage of my Ignorance of the Nature of my Employment, was his Intent of uſing me in his Amour with her. I was happy to have been let into ſo much of his Character before he explained himſelf to me on this Head; and I was indeed but juſt informed of it in time. The Morning after my having over-heard the Converſation, that had been the firſt Means of letting me into the Secret, he rung for me in his Study, and having ordered me to ſhut the Door, aſked me, when I had ſeen Mrs. *Love?* I anſwered him in all the

the Sincerity of Truth, not ſince I had the Honour of ſerving his Excellency. Then you have kept your Reſolution on that Head, replied he; I anſwered, that I muſt always do ſo: Nor has ſhe ſollicited you, ſays he? Never, replied I; your Excellency entertains too mean an Opinion of that Lady, if you ſuppoſe ſhe could condeſcend to think of any thing ſo much below her. No! replied my Maſter, with great Earneſtneſs, you will find I am far from thinking too meanly of her: You have no Objection to ſeeing her, continued he, as my Servant? I replied, with a Bow, that ſpoke perfect Reſignation, that I had neither Right nor Inclination to object to his Commands. You are to know then, continued he, that I adore her; that my Life depends upon her Smiles. I have often hinted it to her, and ſhe has made a Pretence of Honour and Fidelity to the Perſon who ſupports her, as the Reaſon of her declining it. I have written to her to renew my Requeſt, and I know nobody ſo fit to commiſſion with ſuch a Buſineſs as you, whom I am ſenſible ſhe eſteems and almoſt loves. You ſee, concluded he, the Opinion I entertain of your Honour and Sincerity. I

venture

venture you where all that I value is at Stake, and where I know yourſelf are intereſted againſt me, but I confide in you. The delivering my Letter is not all I expect of you, another might do that: Plead for me to her, and if you ſucceed, you ſhall be rewarded in Proportion to the Value of the Object you ſollicit for me. I repreſented to my Patron, the Senſe I had of the Lady's Sincerity in her Declarations, and told him, how little Proſpect I thought there was of Succeſs in the Attempt; but, added I, nothing, Sir, in my Power ſhall be omitted in the Attempt. He was ſatisfied of the Diſintereſtedneſs of my Heart, and diſmiſs'd me on the Expedition.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Some ſerious Thoughts on the Condition of a Proſtitute: Reſolutions that the Reader will not expect ſhould be long kept.

IT was at one of thoſe Hours which I had been uſed to ſpend in glorious Security with this Miſtreſs of my Heart, that I approached her Apartment on this Commiſſion. I found her ſunk upon a Sopha at the lower End of the Room, and dropping Tears upon the laſt Letter I had ſent her. No Object on Earth could have ſtartled her like my Appearance; ſhe roſe up with a wild Confuſion, and with her Eyes immoveably bent on mine, huddled up the Paper ſhe had in her Hand, and thruſt it into her Boſom. "I'm ſorry, ſaid ſhe, with a happily affected Indifference in the midſt of her Confuſion, that you have fallen upon a Moment of Uneaſineſs. Something has juſt ruffled me thoroughly, but 'tis not of Conſequence. But, continued ſhe, aſſuming a very different Tone of Voice, how came you here?" My Anſwer was, the taking the Paper out of her Boſom,

Boſom, and opening it. "O, ſays ſhe, preſſing me tenderly by the Hand, why will you enquire into Secrets that will give yourſelf Diſquiet. You have ſurpriſed me at my conſtant Afternoon's Employment: Your Letters ſupply your Place now that I no longer ſee you. I converſe with them the Hours I uſed to ſpend with you: But why have I ſuffered myſelf to make you unhappy, as I know you will be, to find that I am ſo. I don't reproach you, continued ſhe, with your Abſence. You have diſcovered that I bear it poorly, but while I kept you from knowing I ſuffered by it, I was content. Tell me why; tell me, how you could voluntarily baniſh yourſelf from me; and tell me to what Miracle it is that I owe the ſeeing you now."

I DON'T recollect the ever having been ſo deeply affected by any Incident, as by this Diſcovery of the unaffected Tenderneſs of a Woman for me whom I ador'd, and of my curs'd Fate that now planted double Obſtacles in my Way, to the Joys it would naturally have given me. Too much to ſpeak, rendered me ſilent. But there are Expreſſions more eloquent than Words

in the Power of Lovers; I employed them all: Deſpair added Force to them, which the fair Diſconſolate felt in all it's Power. After a Silence of ſome Moments, ſhe melted into a ſoft Languor, and ſcarce able to ſupport the unexpected Shock, faintly ſaid, "Only tell me, why you have been abſent?"

"That which has thus long kept me dumb, replied I, has kept me abſent. A Senſe of my Unworthineſs; my Meanneſs of Condition, that could not let me preſume to throw myſelf at your Feet; that would not let me ſo much as wiſh to ſee you ſink ſo low as to take Notice of it. I was always your Inferior; now I am below even your Contempt." —— "Below me, replied the unhappy Fair One, with a deeply expreſs'd Conſciouſneſs of what ſhe uttered, what can be below me? Hear me, continued ſhe, and know my Senſe of that Condition, which you ſuppoſe makes me imagine myſelf your Superior. I was no more born to it, than you to your's. 'Tis of all others, in my Opinion, the moſt contemptible, the moſt deteſtible, even to thoſe, whoſe Eyes are not turned to the worſt Side of it. But

to

to me that feel it in all its Horrors, believe me it is a burning Ætna. I have heard the Body never acts but in concert with the Mind; that it never does amiss, but the other leads the Way; if this be true, what a Mind have I; and what are you, who think it an Object for your Admiration? But I know 'tis false. I know that all the Pomp and Titles in the World could not have seduced me to approve what Accident has thrown me into. I found myself, before I was aware, launched into a dangerous Sea; and if unskilful Navigation led me among the Rocks and Quicksands, I am conscious 'twas not Choice but Chance that threw me there. You may have seen me put on a chearful Countenance for a Moment, or perhaps forget for such an Instant the Thing I am: But, believe me, when I return to myself again, I place that self so low in my Esteem, that, but that I know you are above it, I should suppose you insulted me when you affected to place any thing beneath the Rank I am in. If you will continue me your Friendship, I shall think you honour me in it: If you refuse it, I won't suspect you give it to another; but I shall think you deny it

me, becauſe, Bankrupt as I am, my Heart cannot return it."

How eaſily in Matters of Love we paſs from one Extream in our Behaviour to the other. I returned this frank and generous Declaration of her Heart with all the honeſt Ardour that inſpired my own. There is a native Eloquence in Words dictated immediately by the Heart, which has more Perſuaſion than all the Rhetoric in the World. The Lady was ſatisfied of my Affection, and what ſhe valued infinitely more, my Eſteem: She indulged me in every innocent Liberty, and ſo natural is Aſſurance, in Conſequence of any the leaſt Countenance given a Paſſion of this Kind, that I would have attempted again, what I had promiſed never to think of after my firſt Pardon: She roſe from me with a Mixture of Paſſions viſible in her Confuſion. You will hate me, ſays ſhe, for refuſing you, but you would deſpiſe me for complying: You know which ought to be my Choice, and you know, for another more weighty Reaſon, which will be ſo. I have determined, never to ſink myſelf lower than I am by additional Proſtitution: But I find myſelf

myſelf unequal to the Taſk of reſiſting you: Be noble enough in your Care for me, to aſſiſt me in preſerving, what you have been attempting to deſtroy, and what is the only rational Source of Pride to a Wretch like me: If you will give your Conduct this Turn, I will add Reverence to my Eſteem for you; if you perſiſt in this Cruelty, you will find, that tho' I cannot continue to refuſe you, I can avoid the Solicitations that would be fatal to my Peace, and will leave you, tho' I at the ſame time fly from every thing I ought to regard. I made my Submiſſion: I promiſed never to repeat my Offence: I went back in great Diſcontent with myſelf for having deſerved the Diſpleaſure of a Perſon whom I had ſo many Reaſons to love and to revere; and 'till my Maſter aſked me, for the Anſwer to his Letter, I never recollected that I had forgot to deliver it. I told him, I was ordered to wait on her again for her Anſwer, and he was pleaſed at her taking time to determine of his Fate. A Senſe of his advantageous Figure, and an imaginary Conſciouſneſs of Qualifications, which it is not eaſy for Women to reſiſt, gave him a much more ſanguine Expectation of Suc-

ceſs from a Lady's deliberating on his Propoſal, than from a haſty Reſolution. He ſat down chearfully to Supper, and I had an Opportunity of repairing the Miſchief before it was diſcovered, by obtaining her immediate Anſwer to the Propoſal on my delivering it the next Morning.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

The Contrivances of a Friend. The Succeſs that attends them.

THE Contempt with which my fair One treated this new Excellency's Offer of his Affections, effectually put a Stop to any farther Sollicitations from that Quarter; nor was I ſo much as ſuſpected of not having punctually diſcharged my Duty. I had found the Way to renew my Viſits however; and tho' I was eloquent in vain on my Maſter's Part, I ſucceeded ſo perfectly on my own, that I ought to have accounted myſelf happy. All but the one Thing denied was indulged me. My Viſits were always more than welcome, and every Day gave me new Teſtimonies of the real Eſteem and Affection of a Woman whom I ſincerely loved. Alas! who in my Situation could have ſtopped there? I preſſed her Compliance with all that I could aſk, more and more earneſtly. One Evening, I know not by what Miracle it was that ſhe eſcaped, I think ſhe ſcarce deſired to do ſo.

The next Morning I received the following Letter.

" YOU will not wonder, that I have " resolved to see you no more under " my present Circumstances; or that I " have taken the only Way to avoid it, " by flying to a Place where you will " never find me. I have exacted a Pro- " mise of Secrecy from the only Person " who could have disclosed this; and I " know he has Honour, and will keep " it. It remains, that I tell you I have " been always sincere in my Professions " of Tenderness to you, and shall always " love your Memory. We may meet, " but I hardly expect it. Tell me, how " I shall soften to you the Word, Fare- " well; for I feel in my own Breast, how " much it wants it; of this be assured, " nothing but loving you could have for- " ced me from you, and that to whatever " Fate my wretched Body is doomed, " my Heart will ever be entirely and only " your's."

It was in vain to fly out against a Sentence already executed. The Lady was beyond the Reach of any Application from

from me before I received this Letter. I honoured her for the Reſolution, that gave me little leſs than Death; and thus much I think due from me to a Character no way exaggerated in the Account I have given of it; eminent in a Sphere, where no other perhaps ever did or ever will have a Right to Eſtimation.

I HAD at one time, from this ſingular Inſtance, formed an Opinion of the kept Women, as the firſt and greateſt of the Sex; but I had ſoon Occaſion to laugh at my Folly, in judging of Generals from a Particular; and to find, that as there is no Rank in Life in which there may not be ſome bad, there is none that wholly excludes the Appearance of Merit. My Maſter, for his Part, bore the Loſs of his Miſtreſs much better than I did: A Repulſe from one, was with him only an Inſtigation to follicit another. He ſupped with a Party of the Foreigners, the Evening of his receiving the News of Mrs. *Love*'s Departure, at *Jenny*'s *Whim*: A Miſtreſs of the principal Perſon of the Company did the Honours of the Table, and this univerſal Adventurer fell deſperately in Love with her on the Spot. I

was employed in the negotiating this Treaty, as I had been in that of the former: My ill Succeſs there had not at all hurt my Character; and full Power was given me to ſet the Paſſion of my Maſter in the beſt Light I could.

IT was this Lady who firſt convinced me, that there was as much Difference between the Miſtreſſes, as between the Wives of Men of Quality: She had as great Obligations to her Protector as the other, but ſhe did not eſteem her Obligations to him quite ſo ſacred. She begun the Treaty, by making a Sacrifice of her Perſon to me to engage me firmly in her Intereſts: She commiſſioned me with the Terms on which ſhe would ſurrender; and when ſhe found her Lover's Fortune would by no Means anſwer theſe, ſhe made a Merit of laying the whole Scheme before her Lord and Maſter, who ſhe knew often entertained himſelf and others at the Expence of this Knight Errant. She did not doubt, but his Addreſſes to her might be a Fund of excellent Diverſion to them. A Plan was immediately laid, to which my honourable Maſter was to be the Dupe firſt in private, and afterwards for the Entertainment

tainment of all his Acquaintance. The Lady was inſtructed to abate of her Demands: The Lover could not but comply with her more reaſonable Terms: The Bargain was made in all its Particulars. The Lady was taken to his Houſe, and deſired to chuſe her Apartment: She gave Orders for the Furniture, and even ſuffered him to beſpeak a Chariot: He laughed at her, while he complied with theſe Extravagancies, well knowing, that he ſhould never be at any other about her, as he was fully determined to keep her only as long as he could without paying.

'Tis no uncommon Thing for People of this Turn to be laughing at each other, while each ſuppoſes he has all the Triumph to himſelf. It was exactly thus with the three People who were now plotting againſt one another. My honourable Maſter laughed at the Blindneſs of the beſt Friend he had in the World, for not finding out that he was diſingenuous enough to be robbing him of what he valued moſt of all Things in it: His Friend was all the Time laughing at the Pains this Politician was taking to make a Fool of himſelf; and the Lady, who had more

Addreſs than either, was laughing at them both; and while ſhe was flattering her Protector, with making him the Confidant of her Plot upon my Patron, ſhe was all the Time laughing at him; for not ſeeing that ſhe was draining her new Lover of all his ready Caſh for occaſional Favours, which ſhe very freely beſtowed on him every time ſhe met him; as heartily as ſhe did at that Dupe, for ſuppoſing he ever ſhould have any thing more of her.

If I may have leave to add to this, that I who poſſeſſed the Lady's Heart, and had from her Inclination, what they could only purchaſe the Pretences of with Money; and who, beſide this glorious Triumph, had the Pleaſure of being entertained with all their Secrets, and her Manner of fooling them both, had more Occaſion to triumph in a Laugh than any of them; perhaps it would not be eaſy to pick out a Sett of merrier People in the World than we were, or a Sett who better repreſented what the Merriment of the World uſually is. The Man who deſpiſes and over-reaches another, being generally deſpiſed and over-reached in his Turn; and the other who triumphs over the eaſy

Credulity

Credulity of the firſt, being himſelf the Dupe of ſomebody behind the Curtain, who is content with the Emolument, and does not think it worth while to tell them they are all Fools, till the Scene is over.

My Variety of Fortune has given me an Opportunity of ſeeing a great deal in the great World; and I have ever found it thus: The People who took themſelves to be the Maſter Springs of all, have been, without knowing it, the Paw to ſave ſome other Perſon from burning his own Fingers; and when the whole Scheme has been executed, ſomebody who ſat them all to work, but was never ſuſpected of it, has ſlipped his Hand between and drawn away the Cheſnuts. I have ſeen a Faction bold enough to attempt leading their King which way they pleaſed: I have ſeen a ſingle Hand behind the Curtain, propoſe the Means to the Sovereign, of robbing them of their diſhoneſtly obtained Power, by an Article that ſhould throw him in among them; and while this was done with no other Intent, than to get into his own ſingle Hand that Power, which he had declared too much even for a Party. I have ſeen the Monarch give a ſeeming

Aſſent to the Propoſal, and by fighting the Plotters againſt one another, keep the Power which none had a Right to dare to think of taking from him, inviolated in his own Hands.

EVERY thing went on proſperouſly in the Amour of my new Maſter and the Miſtreſs of his Friend: The Upholſterer had furniſhed the Apartment; the Coach-maker had ſent Word, the Equipage would be at the Door the next Morning, and the Lover's Heart was ſcarce able to contain its Triumph: To compleat the Victory, Chance, as he thought proper to underſtand it, contrived the making it public. On the very Day, when all his Preparations were ready, the preſent Proprietor of the Lady ſent him a Card, to invite him to an Entertainment at his Houſe: He found it would be a public one; and nothing could have pleaſed his Vanity in ſo glorious a Manner as the Thought of carrying off the Lady from the Maſter of the Feaſt, before all his Friends. He doubted her Conſent to ſo flagrant a Piece of Ingratitude as well as Infidelity; but he was in Raptures, to find ſhe agreed to it as ſoon as it was propoſed:

poſed: How abſurd is this common Conduct of the Men of Intrigue in admiring and loving Women, for Qualities for which they ought to hate them, and which they have all the Reaſon in the World to ſuppoſe, will be one Day turned againſt themſelves. The Maſter of the Feaſt was informed, that the Lady had conſented; ſhe even told him the very Circumſtances: That they were to go off after they had drank Coffee: That the Bed was to be air'd ready for their coming in; and that before it was poſſible they ſhould be miſſed, he was to receive a Letter from her, dated from her new Friend's Bed, to take her Leave of him: That a Collation was to be ready at Eight; and that when they roſe from that, the new Chariot was to be ready at the Door to carry them to the Maſquerade at *Marybon*. It muſt be allowed to have been a Scheme well laid; but Fortune is capricious: The Event the Reader, who does not gueſs it before-hand, will find in the next Chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

The Termination of a long concerted Adventure.—A Poſt very willingly loſt in Hope of a better.

THE Dinner was over at the Embaſſador's; the Company was in great Gaiety of Spirits; the Lady ordered Coffee, and my Maſter in the Triumph of his Heart could not help reading a Copy of *Italian* Verſes, which he had got ready for the Paranicion: Theſe would have been very intelligible to all the Company an Hour afterwards, if Matters had gone as he wiſhed, but as he ſuppoſed at preſent were Heathen *Greek* to every body but himſelf: They were twice read during the Ceremony of the Coffee, and as the Conjectures about them ran high, the Author threw the Paper among the Company, to be examined as critically as they pleaſed. This was the Signal for the Lady's Decampment: She ſlipped away on the Inſtant, and while the Maſter of the Feaſt purpoſely engaged every body in looking over them, the Lover followed her Example.

HE

He was no ſooner out of the Room than the Maſter of the Houſe threw down the Paper, and told the Company there were three Hackney Coaches at the Door which would carry them where they ſhould have a high Entertainment: The Lady had her Inſtructions to trifle away ſome little Time before ſhe ſet off with her new Maſter; the Company obeyed the Propoſal that was made them, and they were after a ſhort Drive ſet down at the Houſe of my Maſter.

I don't know whether the Plot of this *Machiavel* of Politics would have ſucceeded without my Aſſiſtance: Some unknown Cauſe often gives Succeſs to an Enterprize, while he who knows not how it happened is exalted to the Skies for bringing it about. It is, I think, hardly poſſible to ſuppoſe that a Party of eleven People, and all of the firſt Faſhion, could have been in a Man's Houſe, and his Servants let them in without telling him of it; but I knew the whole Plot, and was determined it ſhould not be diſappointed. I was heartily tired of ſo dirty a Com-

Commander, and had no Averſion to the giving him an Opportunity of quarrelling with me. The Protector of the Lady led in the Party: I diſpoſed of the reſt of the Servants, and received them at the Door: His Excellency looked earneſtly at me, and with a half Smile ſaid, "Can you be ſecret? No Harm ſhall happen to you from it, upon my Honour." I told him with a Bow of perfect Submiſſion, I knew none could happen after what he had been pleaſed to ſay: He looked earneſtly at me again, and gave me a Nod of Approbation with a Mixture of Surprize, I ſuppoſe at the ready Politeneſs of my Anſwer. I hardly gave him leave to tell me, I muſt ſhew them into the new Apartment, before I threw open the Door of it. He threw himſelf upon the Bed, and was ſaying ſomething very good-natured to me, when a Rap, which I knew to be that of my Maſter's Footman, called me to the Door.

THE mentioning that it was my Maſter, was more than an Excuſe for my abruptly running out of the Room: His Impatience to have his Miſtreſs his own, or perhaps his Impatience for the Triumph

he

he was to have on an Occaſion which he ought to have been aſhamed of, had preſſed the Lady ſo hard that the Coaches which had brought the Company were hardly well away from the Door when he arrived. The Company had arranged themſelves behind the Screen and eaſy Chairs in the Room, that he might enter unſuſpecting; and I had thrown open the Door that they might hear the Converſation up Stairs: "O Angel, ſays he, in Rapture, as he thruſt her up before him, how ſhall we laugh to think of the Conſternation of his Excellence!" The laſt Word was ſpoke as he entered the Door. His Friend on the Inſtant throwing himſelf up from the Bed, pronounced, with a very emphatical Tone,

Behold him here! the Wretch whom thou haſt made,
Curſes and Sorrows haſt thou heap'd upon him.

My Maſter had not time to ſtare before he ſaw the Room full of the reſt of the Company. After a Laugh of a Quarter of an Hour they ſeverally complimented him upon the Addreſs with which he had conducted his Amour, and the Lady, dropping

ping him a low Curt'sy, asked him if he really could be so much a Coxcomb to think any Woman could change such a Lover, such a Friend as hers, for such an insignificant ——. It is very rarely the Fortune of Men who speak Truth to be believed. Revenge now dictated to my Master an ample Satisfaction on the Head of the offending Fair-one. "O you pretty Brim, says he, and so you would have him believe you have made a Fool of me all this time. To tell you the Truth, Madam, I have had so much of you that I am tired of you. I only wanted to make little 'Laugh with my Friend, and then tell him what B— you was, that he might turn you out of Doors.'" The Company burst into a Laugh on this; and his Friend told him, "You see dear ***, you have succeeded so far in your Plot as to make Laugh enough for me and all your Friends beside; but as to the rest of your Story, you will find it very difficult to persuade any body here that you have had Favours from a Woman who you must now be told has let me into every Part of your Scheme all the while you have been about it."

"Then

"Then ſhe is double B——, exclaims my Maſter with great Violence, ſhe is double B—— upon my Honour. You never did all the civil Things in the World with me, ha Madam! I did not give you thirty Guineas laſt Week, did I? And you did not ſay to me, O that Fool the ***, to ſuppoſe any Woman can love him when he brings you in her Company. Tell me that, now tell me that!" The Laugh was high at the latter Part of the Speech, and when it was over, the Lady, inſtead of anſwering him, turned to her Protector, and very ſedately aſked him, "Why will you let this dirty Fellow think you ſupport me ſo poorly that I could want thirty Pound?" Every body was upon my Maſter's Back at once: They joined in telling him, nothing in the World was ſo infamous as this Trick of People's taking away a Woman's Reputation when they could not ſucceed in their Deſigns upon her: And the Lady's Friend, who loved her for her ſuppoſed Fidelity, and was hurt to ſee her in Pain upon his ſaying what he had, added, let me adviſe you *** againſt this for the future, for it is doubly cruel to take away the Reputation

of

of a poor Creature who may ſtarve by the loſing it. It is all one for that, replied my Maſter, heartily moved at what was ſaid to him, and out of Patience at being born down in a Thing in which he was really in the right, "It is all one, I ſay for that, but I think I have you ſtill, Madam. You know my Valet, Madam. On this he called me into the Room. Is this Man any body you ever ſee about my Logis?" The Lady readily anſwered, Yes. "O very well, very well, Madam; Now come you here, ſays he to me, tell the Truth and fear nothing; Do you know I lie fifty, hundred times with this B——? Say yes or no to it."

THE Company were not quite ſo poſitive now as they had been before on the Lady's Side: They all ſquinted towards her, to ſee if they could read Guilt in her Face, and her Friend was almoſt ſurpriſed to ſee her not change Countenance on his directing one of his moſt piercing Looks toward her. "I wiſh, replied I, with great Humility, that I might have leave to be ſilent on this Occaſion. I am afraid by ſpeaking the Truth I ſhall give Offence where it is my Duty to pleaſe, but Reputation

putation is as dear as Life, eſpecially to Perſons who have only that to live upon. I have known my Maſter ſollicit that Lady very much for Favours, and offer her Preſents, in particular laſt Week thirty Guineas, but I never knew her accept of any, and I think ſhe never ſuffered him to take any Liberties with her, becauſe this Morning I heard him ſay, I believe now you will not make me happy till you live with me."

I COULD not wonder at a Volley of Oaths, Imprecations, and hard Names, in conſequence of this glorious Lie. I expected them, and all that was coming beſide. I flew to the Patron of the Lady for Protection. My Maſter ordered me out of his Doors that Inſtant, and the Gentleman to whom I had flown gave me Commiſſion to go into his. He gave me his Purſe, containing about eighty Pounds in Notes and Caſh, as a Reward for my Fidelity, and an earneſt of his good Intentions to me; and his Miſtreſs added hers to encourage me to continue honeſt, and act all along as I had done that Evening. I begged Permiſſion to return the Lady her Purſe, telling her, I hoped I ſhould always

always be honeſt without being paid for ſhewing myſelf ſo. I added, that I had no Right to ſcruple the Honour done me in his Excellency's Preſent, as I underſtood myſelf to be now in his Service: I gave her a Look that made her put her Purſe in her Pocket again with great Readineſs; and had the Pleaſure after my leaving the Room to hear it delivered as the Senſe of the Company, that I was the honeſteſt, ſenſibleſt Fellow that ever came into a Service.

My late Maſter objected highly to my Honeſty from the Trick I had played him. But this was a Truth no body preſent could be perſuaded to have any ſort of Opinion of. The Patron of the Lady looking about him, and ſeeing there were no Servants by, ſaid to his ingenuous Friend, "Upon my Honour ſhe informed me of this Plot of yours as ſoon as you laid it, and has told me every Step ſhe has taken in it ſince. She was never with you but with my Knowledge and Approbation." "That may be, replied the other, interrupting him, for any thing I know of the contrary, but upon my Honour ſhe was my Whore all the Times." "Fie, fie, replied

plied his Friend, reſuming his Diſcourſe, I am ſerious, and don't fruſtrate my good-natured Intentions to you: Will you leave us a few Moments, my Deareſt, continued he, addreſſing himſelf to the Lady?" She obeyed, and took that Opportunity of rewarding me with a Profuſion of voluptuous Wantonneſs for my excellent Services; and while ſhe was revelling in unaffected Fondneſs in my Arms, in the Room next to that in which they were, we had the triumphant Satisfaction of hearing every body agree that ſhe was the chaſteſt, faithfulleſt Creature in the World, and to hear my new Maſter, and her fond Patron, continue to tell him who had juſt turned me off: "When I tell you that I knew of all this Preparation, I did not intend, you may eaſily imagine, that you ſhould be at the Expence of it: Your Lodgings wanted new Furniture, and I knew your Finances could not well bear the Charge of it: You have the Pleaſure to hear from me, that the Perſon the Lady employed to do all this was my Upholſterer, and I have paid him for it; it is heartily at your Service, and may I periſh if I would not do as much to-morrow on as good an Occaſion. As to the Chariot, that too has been built un-

der my Directions; I wanted a new one, and it is only altering the Arms and it will ſerve for me. I have no End in all this but to laugh at you for a Plot in which your Diſingenuity deſerves it; but be honeſt, and, as every thing is now ſettled, do Juſtice to the Lady, and own your Paſſion made you ſpeak ill of her when ſhe did not deſerve it. This my old Maſter obſtinately refuſed, and indeed with ſufficient Reaſon: But the Reſult was only a hearty Laugh at his Obſtinacy: The Company joined in telling him they were as much convinced of her Innocence as if he had confeſſed he charged her falſely; and his Excellence, whoſe Underſtanding is inferior to very few People's, added, indeed ***, you and every body elſe that act in this Manner, maintaining an Aſperſion when every one ſees it is groundleſs, hurt your own Reputations by it, not that of the Perſon you mean to ſlander.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Character of a Man of Quality.—Of the Uſes Servants make of their Maſters.

BEFORE the Company broke up, I received the Orders of my new Maſter to wait on the Lady home: We congratulated one another on the Fortune which had thrown us ſo happily together, and had the Prudence to determine not to forfeit it by Careleſsneſs. Till his Excellence came home. I did not underſtand what Office I was to have in the Family: I had only Opportunity to gueſs it was no contemptible one, by the Apartment I was ſhewn into for that Night: In the Morning my new Patron was no ſooner up than he ordered me into his Preſence.

I HAVE taken you into my Family, young Man, ſaid he, not becauſe I have any Vacancy in it, but from an Opinion of you, and a Deſire of doing you good: Your late Maſter tells me you are but ill at the Office in which you ſerved him. What Education have you had? Poſſibly you may be more qua-

lified for a better Poſt. I gave him as much of my Hiſtory as was neceſſary to inform him of my Qualifications: He had intended to give me a Poſt of Conſequence under the Secretary to the Embaſſy he was employed in, but my want of the modern *European* Languages deſtroyed that good Intention. I was a Month in his Family in no ſettled Occupation at all: He loved to have me about his Perſon, and commiſſioned me with all his Meſſages of Gallantry, of which the Number was not inconſiderable. At length his ſuffering me to do little Things about his Dreſs convinced him that I was, or ſhould be, very well qualified for that Office, and I was ſettled as a Valet Extraordinary, till ſome Vacancy ſhould give me an Opportunity of a more regular Poſt.

My new Maſter was a Man of uncommon natural Qualifications, and of great acquired Accompliſhments. His Underſtanding was of the firſt Claſs; he had improved it by reading every good Author in any of the Languages; and this he executed ſo carefully and ſo happily, that he became a Maſter of every Thing they had excelled in, and adopted their Sentiments

in

in such a Manner, that when he afterwards found Occasion to employ them, they appeared not theirs but his own: If there was any thing in him that excelled his Knowledge of Books it was his Knowledge of the World: He had been a Soldier in his younger time of Life, and during all his riper Years a Statesman: No Man knew so well the Use of Command; none could so well disguise a disagreeable Truth to an Ear that must know it, but that ought not to be shocked with it. He had habituated himself in such a Manner to the unravelling the Plots of States and Kingdoms, that he saw through all the lesser ones of private Persons as soon as they were formed; and he had been so used to Patience in the disconcerting larger Schemes, that he had an easy and cool Address that never disappointed him in the lesser ones, and that seldom failed to conceal his Intentions, nay his very Suspicions, till the Moment when the Business of them was at an End. Never Man was better formed to manage the Business of a Nation; never Statesman had a Heart so little bent upon public Mischief for its own private Advantages.

WITH all these good Qualities, however, as human Nature cannot be without its Blemishes, my new Master had his Foibles, though I do not know that any of them amounted to Vices: He had a Consciousness of his own Dignity, and of the Honour of his public Character, that bordered upon Haughtiness; and he had so happy a Manner of setting the Foibles of others in an entertaining Light, that he sometimes carried it into Severity. On these Principles he was accused, by those who knew him imperfectly, of Pride and Ill-nature; but to be acquainted with him was to know this was carrying the Censure too far. He was at this time somewhat declined into the Vale of Years, as *Othello* says; but a good Management of an excellent natural Constitution had preserved him in a hale robust State of Health, which few People of five and twenty, as the Age now goes, could equal. He had never been what the Women call a pretty Fellow; but he was extremely well made, and carried at this time an Erectness of Port and Vivacity of Eye that scarce any body equalled.

His

His great Foible, in my Opinion, was a Paſſion for Gallantries at an Age when a wiſe Man would wiſh to be quitting them: He was every where well received among the Women; and though he had ſo fine a Creature under his Protection, he was uſually in Love in half a dozen other Places at a time: As I had the conducting of this Part of his Correſpondence I had an Opportunity of ſeeing him ſometimes laughed at behind his Back where he was very well received on his Viſits, and if I dared have ventured on ſo diſagreeable an Office, had often great Temptations to tell him of it.

I EASILY ſaw my Part in the Service of a Man of this Penetration, whom it was my Buſineſs to deceive: I gave Openings into a thouſand trivial Circumſtances of my Life, which I affected to have been unwilling he ſhould be apprized of, and by the Senſe I expreſſed on theſe Occaſions of the Impoſſibility it would be to deceive him, I gave him what he received as convincing Proof that I would never attempt it. As he was the firſt, in all reſpects, of the Foreigners reſident at this time in

London, his Houſe was the Reſort of all the others: The Excellency I had lately ſerved kept at a Diſtance for a few Days after his Defeat, but he came to afterwards, though he never entered an Apartment where Chance had placed me, that he did not give Looks to which it would not be eaſy for the Malevolence of *Hogarth* to do Juſtice in a Picture. To know one of the Foreigners in *England* is to know them all; and to be the Valet of one of them is I find in general to be the Pimp to them all: Their Schemes are generally againſt the Miſtreſſes of one another; and as I learned ſoon from ſome others of my Fraternity in their Service, it was a pretty univerſal Cuſtom for the Valet on each Side to pocket them both; and while each was paid for watching the Honour of the Miſtreſs of his Patron, each was paid alſo for procuring that of the other: The Valets, under theſe Circumſtances, almoſt univerſally had both Miſtreſſes alternately for their own Amuſement, and by comparing Notes were always able to fix an Appointment for two of the Parties, while the other two were employed in another Place on the ſame Amuſement. It is owing to this Circumſtance, though they do not know

know it themſelves, that no Woman has ever beſtowed a Favour upon one of theſe Gentlemen but ſhe has gone through the whole Set; and that no agreeable young Fellow has ſerved one of them but he has had all the fine Women in Town.

THERE viſited very frequently at our Houſe another Eminence, who had ſome of the Foibles of my Maſter, but even theſe without their alleviating Circumſtances. He was handſome, but too ſtiff to be genteel; he had Haughtineſs without a neceſſary Fund for the Support of it, and Ill-nature without the Wit that ſhould always attend Severity: This *Adonis*, as he ſeemed to eſteem himſelf, had, at the time of my ſerving this Gentleman, a Miſtreſs whom all the World envied him. She was handſome without being affected; the genteeleſt Woman in the World becauſe ſhe was the eaſieſt; and had a Fund of good Senſe that judged rightly of every thing but of its own Exiſtence.

THE Extravagance in which her preſent Patron ſupported her, placed her above the Attacks of the Men of Intrigue in general, and her natural Reſerve, increaſed

by the ſtrong Diſpoſition her Protector had to Jealouſy, kept her out of the way of all Temptation to do amiſs, except what ſhe met with, in a manner, at home. I have mentioned it as the peculiar Taſte of the Maſter I had lately quitted, to be fond of what was the Property of his Friends; but he was not ſo ſcrupulous, I now found, on this head, but that rather than be out of Employ, he would condeſcend to level his Batteries againſt the Citadel of an Enemy. As Foreigners, as Acquaintances of all the ſame common Acquaintance, this quondam Maſter of mine, and the Gentleman under whoſe Protection the Lady I have been mentioning was, could not but be acquainted: They were civil when they met, but they hated one another heartily at the Bottom, and it is almoſt a Queſtion whether the Soul of the Intriguer would not have felt almoſt as much Pleaſure in revenging himſelf of his Enemy in the Arms of his Miſtreſs, as if the Dainty had been recommended by the over-reaching of a Friend. Whether this, or whether the perſonal Charms of the Lady, or whatever elſe were the Motives, however this was the deſtined Conqueſt of our Hero, famous and renowned: On this Conſideration,

ſideration, after a Month's Looks that ſeemed to threaten me with a Piſtol or a Poniard, he came to our Houſe one Morning, at a time when he knew my Maſter was out, and ſitting down in a Parlour ſent for me to come to him.

"You know, ſays he, Sir, what a Raſcal you have been to me: I am of a Nation that does not eaſily forgive Injuries; and perhaps I ſhould have found the Means of revenging it at a Moment when you little thought of me: But there is an Opportunity of your cancelling the Remembrance of it by a good Action. Are you willing? I am very ſerious. Speak what you will ſtand to." I replied that I would, if I found it honeſt and practicable. "It is practicable, replied he haſtily: As to Honeſty, I know how much you have of it; but you have a better Thing, that is, Cunning: You have expoſed me ſcandalouſly by it, now make me the Reparation. I have a Mind to ***'s Miſtreſs: He gives an Entertainment to-day at *Jenny's Whim*; tell me, ſhall I have her before Night, for I know you can do it if you will?" I anſwered, Sir, I will do it if I can: He put ten

Pieces into my Hand by way of retaining Fee: He told me he ſhould dine there, and that he left to me the Means of ſeparating his Miſtreſs and her Guardian. I found, in a few Minutes, that my Maſter did not dine among this Party; he commiſſioned me with his Excuſe by Word of Mouth to the Maſter of the Feaſt, on his receiving a Summons which there was no refuſing from another Quarter. This was no unfavourable Circumſtance for me; and I built on it my whole Plan in favour of the intended Intrigue. I had a thorough Contempt for my late Maſter, and indeed was not without ſome Degree of Hatred to him on Occaſion of ſome diſagreeable Things that had paſſed at the time of my going; but it was not my Buſineſs to have him an Enemy, and Conſcience, indeed, while I recollected my late Treatment of him, dictated to me that I owed him a good Turn.

THE Abſence of my Maſter from the Entertainment appeared no favourable Circumſtance to the Perſon who had retained me, and who had formed great Expectations from my Abilities and Addreſs. The Servants of the Foreigners, I have obſerved,

obſerved, are in general the Servants of all of them in common. No body was ſurprized to ſee me in Office at the Dinner, though I had no regular Buſineſs there; but my Retainer was rejoiced at it: He conceived Hopes that I had a Plan, and he was not diſappointed in that Imagination.

The great Foible of the Maſter of the Feaſt was a Deſire to be thought of Conſequence. It was not always his Fate to be of the Parties of Buſineſs among the Stateſmen; but if he could get his Head in, he was happy for a Month with the Conſequences of it; every new Company he fell into giving him an Opportunity of ſhewing he had been there, by tattling what paſſed in Secrecy. After a few Healths had gone round, a Meſſenger deſired to have Admittance to the Maſter of the Ceremony: He was received at the Door by that Excellence, who went ſo far rather than trouble the Company with his Buſineſs. He delivered a verbal Meſſage from my Maſter, deſiring his immediately meeting him at the Duke of ***'s, where ſomething of Conſequence was upon the Carpet. Every Muſcle in his Face re-

ceived a new Vigour from the Sound; he made his Apology to the Company for an Hour or two, promiſed to return as ſoon as ever the Party broke up: and told me where my Maſter was aloud, by way of letting the Company into the Secret of where he had the Honour to be going.

I WAS happy in this Opportunity of wiping off all Suſpicion of my having been the Author of the Meſſage. I told his Excellence, in a low Voice, that I was ſure it was impoſſible my Maſter ſhould be where he heard, for that he went out undreſſed, and I knew where he was; and added I, it was not one of our Servants that came, and I am ſure my Maſter would not have ſent a Stranger on ſuch a Meſſage.

THE Gentleman in whoſe Service all this was executed, eaſily ſaw that the Meſſage was a ſham one of my contriving: But he could have cut me to Pieces for every Word I was now ſaying againſt the Veracity of it. I knew my Man ſufficiently to be convinced nothing could keep him, and I was to take Care, now I had effected

effected my Buſineſs, not to be ſuſpected of having any hand in it.

He not only laughed at my Suſpicions, but gave ſome Occaſion to ſuppoſe he was angry at my making them: He got away as ſoon as his Horſes could be put to, and left Inſtructions with his Valet to have an Eye upon the Lady. The Triumph of the Intriguer ran very high on the going off of the Maſter of the Feaſt: I found Means to give him a Hint of the Orders which I found were left with the Valet, and cautioned him to give no room for Suſpicion, that I might find it the eaſier to get him off. The Valet, additionally to a real Fidelity, had all that Sagacity and Diſcernment which his Maſter wanted: It was in vain that I attempted but to engage him in Converſation till he had fixed his Eyes attentively on all the Company, in order to ſee where was the Poſt of Danger. It was well I had cautioned my Pupil: Whether a ſettled Thirſt of Revenge, or an abſolute Indifference to the pretended Object of his Wiſhes were in the Cauſe, I know not, but he punctually and exactly obſerved my Inſtructions. There was no real Danger from any other Quarter, and ſo good a Maſter

a Maſter of diſſembling was my Pupil that none appeared there. The *Argus* found his Quality of Watching unneceſſary, at leaſt he thought he found it ſo; and as I knew his Taſte in a Miſtreſs was for one of the plumper Kind, I took Occaſion to whiſper to him, as he waited at ſome Diſtance from his Lady, that, as every body here was eaſy and merry, I did not ſee any Need they had of us; that I did not know why Servants might not be at Liberty to indulge a little ſometimes, as well as their Maſters; that I was ſure Nature had made us all of the ſame Fleſh and Blood, and that for my Part I did not know what Life was good for, if we were to ſpend it all in waiting upon the Pleaſures of other People. Our Maſters, continued I, Monſieur ***, are both away, and I don't know any Buſineſs we have to wait on other People. I know where there's ſome charming Home-brewed juſt by, and a fine comely Landlady as fat as *Jenny Douglas*. I ſaw the native Purple in his Face glow into an abſolute Vermilion at the Name of a fat Landlady. I led him, as *Milton* ſays, *nothing loath*, to an Alehouſe where the Hackney Coachmen put up while their Fares are at *Ranelagh*;

lagh; and while I engaged him in the fruitleſs Attack of a Town, the Gates of which had not been opened theſe ten Years, my quondam Maſter watched the Lady's ſlipping out of the Room into the Gardens, bribed the good-natured Gentlewoman of the Houſe who had attended her, to quit her Poſt before the Lady perceived it, and under the ſpangled Canopy of Heaven, made the green Slope at the Back of the Summer-houſes, the thrice driven Bed of Down, or Bed of thrice driven Down, if the Commentator pleaſes, as *Shakeſpear* calls it, on which he executed the ſweeteſt of all Vengeance on his ancient Enemy.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

A bold Attack of the Lover proves at once ſucceſsful and calamitous.

I KNOW not how it is, that Women, who are ſo very careful, as, to give the Sex its due, all Women are, of the firſt Step into Lewdneſs, have no ſooner taken that, than they plunge into all Lengths of it unreſtrained, and will ſacrifice their Fidelity to the Man who has a Right to it, and their Regard to themſelves, to any body; to People often, who have neither Perſuaſion nor Temptation about them, or who have thought it worth their while to uſe even that lighteſt of all light Coin, Sollicitation, to the Purpoſe. They ſeem to be of Opinion, that to be once a Whore is the ſame with being a Whore for ever: That to give up themſelves to one Man, is to proſtitute themſelves to the whole Sex; and to think with *Caliſta* in the Play,

"*Thou can'ſt no more betray, nor I be*
"*ruin'd.*"

BUT

But whether my ſhort-winged, my moralizing Pegaſus, wouldſt thou carry thy unexperienced Rider? I know not what Time or Leiſure thou may'ſt have to moralize on the Incident; but aſſuredly the People concerned in it had neither. My modeſt Muſe had turned her Back upon the Lovers, juſt as they had uſed an oppoſite Ceremony to one another, and left them preſſing a ſlant Green, the Bottom of which form'd the Margin to a clayey Puddle, called in the Language of the Place a Canal, and indeed not improperly ſo, if according to the Sentiment of a very profound and judicious Etymologiſt of this time, that Word is derived from, and has an intimate Connection with, the Word Kennel: The Verge of this graſſy Bank was ornamented or fenced, which ſhall the Writer ſay, for in Verity, there ſeems to the judicious Eye as much Ornament as Security, and as much Security as Ornament in the Plantation, with a low Hedge, formed of Willow Stakes, planted at Diſtances, which had furniſhed a Number of living Twigs to the intermediate Space, and in the Vacancies between which grew, in all the Wildneſs

of

of luxurious Nature, the pungent Nettle, the green Sword-graſs Sedge, and the pointed Thiſtle, forming a varied, if not a ſplendid Scene of Verdure.

The Lady had ſuffered no farther Conſideration to enter her Head at this ſprightly Period, than that of the Rewards of paſſive Acquieſcence: She had ſtretched her agile Limbs, like the *Æmonian Io*'s, on the Bank, and thought of nothing beneath Rapture: The Swain, for what Reaſon we ſhall not preſume to determine, had placed his whole Support on his Right Foot, which bore upon one of the living Hedge-ſtakes already celebrated. We may ſuppoſe, while we ſee a Merry Andrew on the Ropes, or *Mohammed Caratha* on the Corner of a fifth Chair, that it is eaſy to keep the true Centre of Gravity, but it is not always ſo in Practice: The Lover eager to indulge in the Revelry of Wantonneſs, had no Time to recollect the Laws of Motion and Matter; but by ſome ſudden Jerk, threw himſelf out of the Line, and on the Inſtant the Hedge-ſtake ſlipped from under his Foot. The natural Declivity of the Ground now carried him downward; but determined that

ſuch

ſuch an Accident ſhould not reduce his Exploit to a half Victory, he held the Fair-one faſt in his Arms: It was in vain ſhe ſcreamed: He attributed to the Fury of his Attack the Wounds her bare Limbs ſuffered from the Nettles and Thiſtles, which they ſlided over: The luckleſs Pair continued deſcending, as *Phaeton* did, into the Brook, but only in a contrary Direction; they went in Feet foremoſt, and were confeſſing their Sins, and giving themſelves over for loſt, when they perceived at the Depth of about Mid-thigh in the Water a ſudden Stop. Thou art not to ſuppoſe, gentle Reader, that they found the Bottom at this ſmall Diſtance from the Surface; we would not pay ſo ill a Compliment to the Pieces of Water in this elegant Retreat, as to ſuppoſe they have any Bottom at all, other than of Mud, which a Man may ſink through. The Foot of the Lover, had in the fatal Inſtant of its loſing its Place, ſlipped on the outſide of the Hedge-ſtake, and one of the Ladies had been carried in the ſame Direction with it. The Conſequence of this was, that after they had ſqueezed flat all the herbaceous Matters in the way of

their

their Deſcent, they found this Stake had been all the while between their Legs: It now ſtopped their ſliding any farther, and ſupported them rammed faſt to one another, in a Poſture out of which it was impoſſible for them to get without Aſſiſtance.

THE Lady made a thouſand Proteſtations, that ſhe would periſh before ſhe would be ſaved at the Expence of any body's ſeeing her in ſuch a Situation. A thouſand Efforts were made both on her Part and on his to diſentangle themſelves, but all in vain. If thou haſt ever, gentle Reader, been in the troubleſome State of a hearty Wearineſs and Hatred of a Woman who was too fond of thee, to leave it poſſible to part with her, thou may'ſt have ſome Idea of the vexatious Situation of our Heroe and Heroine; if not, Words can give thee but a poor Idea of two ſuch involuntary Inſeparables.

A FULL Quarter of an Hour paſſed in the Variety of Attempts made on both Parts to get looſe; at length, the ill Succeſs of all theſe threw the fair One into a Deſpondency, which added to the hot Tingling of the Nettles, and the freezing Cold of the Water, at length prevailed with her to ſubmit to the Lover's calling out for Help: He wanted but Permiſſion: His Tongue was no ſooner at Liberty, than, like Mrs. *Haſte*, who, when ſhe pulls the Bell for a Servant, never ceaſes ringing it till he comes into the Parlour, he bawled ſo loud, and bawled ſo long, that four Waiters heard the Summons from their ſeveral Poſts, and all appeared at once on the Bank to know the Occaſion of it.

THE malicious Moon, though ſhe had been under a Cloud for a Quarter of an Hour before, welcomed the Appearance of theſe Miniſters of Luxury, with a full Blaze of her Beams, directed on the unhappy Pair, who implored their Aſſiſtance: The Lady ſcreamed at the Sight of four Fellows, Witneſſes of ſuch a Scene:

Scene: She thundered out her Commands for them to diſappear and ſend their Miſtreſs and one of the Maids: Some Moments paſſed in the executing this Commiſſion, the good Lady of the Houſe not ſuppoſing ſhe had any Buſineſs with People, who, ſhe thought had not bought her Abſence half an Hour before for nothing: The reiterated Remonſtrances of the Drawers at length prevailed; but no ſooner did that grave Lady with her Veſtals, come in Sight of the ſhameful Object, then ſhe ran with them down the other Slope, and all the Screams and Entreaties of the Lady were ineffectual to bring her or either of them back again.

The Waiters had received their Commands from both the Lovers at once, not to come near them; and it is not eaſy to ſay, what would have been the End of this ill-fated Adventure, if Chance had not ſoon after led one of the humble Excellencies of the Company, to the Part of the Garden where ſtood the Temple at the Egreſs from which the Lover had ſeized the Lady. He could not but paſs by the Scene of Action in his Return; and

and the Lover too impatient and outragious, to bear any longer ſo horrible a State as that he was in, in ſpite of all the Lady could ſay to the contrary, called out to him for Aſſiſtance.

THE Friend ſtarted at the Sound, and was running toward the Place, but upon the mention of being in the Water, he had the Caution to draw back ſome Paces that he might not get in too. Stay one Minute, my dear Sir, ſays he, and I'll bring you Aſſiſtance. It was in vain for the Lover to proteſt againſt this, or to entreat only his Hand to help him up. The Lady was ſilent. The careful Friend, whoſe Eyes are not formed for ſeeing any thing diſtinctly that is farther off than his Noſe, did not diſcover that there was any body joined in the Diſtreſs of the Petitioner: He ran to the Company, and telling them that **** was fallen into the Ditch and would be drowned, they all went out and marched up to his Aſſiſtance, preceeded by the Drawers, carrying all the Candles that were in the Sconces, or upon the Table before them.

IT would require, as the Poet has it,

A thousand Tongues,
A Throat of Brass and Adamantine Lungs,

to describe the several Passions that agitated the Assembly, and the Objects of their Care at this strange Interview. The Lover was first lifted carefully out; and afterwards the Lady. Shame, Indignation and Pain together did the kindest Office for her that she could have been assisted by, she sunk into a Swoon, which rendered her insensible of the Astonishment and Entertainment of the Company, till the Height of the Scene was over.

THE mixed Noise of screaming, laughing, calling for, and offering Assistance; and with it the Blaze of the Lights carried by the Waiters to the Scene of Distress had reached the Retreat, where myself and the Person entrusted with the Care of the Lady, were enjoying a more tranquil Scene of Delight with the Mistress of the House, and two ragged bold Wenches, honoured with the Name of her Daughters. There was only an Ozier Bank

Bank and the Head of a Cut from the River between us and the Scene of Diſtreſs; we ſaw punctually all that paſſed, and it was at the ſame Inſtant that the Lady was lifted out of the Water, that our frighted Landlady obſerved it was at the *Whim*.

CHAP. XI.

A Scene of Confuſion calls back the Renegade Guardian barely in time.

DISTRACTION appeared in the Face of my Companion; he burſt from us, and leaving me to diſcharge the Reckoning flew to the Place of Miſery. I over-took him juſt at the Door, and we were puſhing into it together, attended by a Mob of Gardeners Wives and Daughters; Market-Women and Alewives, whom the Oddity as well as the Diſtreſs of the Story had brought together, when the Flambeaux behind declared the Maſter of the Ceremony returned and at our Heels. His Servant very judiciouſly forced himſelf into the Garden before him, that he might at leaſt know what was the Matter, ere he was called upon to give an Account of it: I threw myſelf in his way as he alighted. He came up immediately to me, and told me, he was impoſed upon; that the Duke of * * * * was at C———, and your Maſter, continued he, is at *Acton*: But I ſhall find who has dared to impoſe upon me.

I replied, your Excellency will be pleaſed to remember that I ſaid I knew it was ſome Miſtake: I knew, Sir, that my Maſter was out of Town, but he was with a Lady, and I did not think it was my Place to ſay too much about it. You are an excellent Servant, ſaid he, giving me a Guinea; I wiſh I had minded what you ſaid.———But what, continued he, is the Matter here? O, Sir, replied I, be pleaſed to walk in and you'll ſee. This was as much as I could ſay about a Thing I knew no more of at that time than he did: I ſuſpected indeed that his Miſtreſs was in the Caſe, and gave an Emphaſis to certain Words of this ſhort Sentence, as I pronounced them, which did not leave him without his Suſpicions of it.

The little Delay I had occaſioned with this Gentleman at the Door was not without its Uſe, and tho' there could be no Merit in it, as I at this Time knew nothing of the Matter; it was underſtood highly in my Favour by the Perſon who had employed me to bring about this unlucky Adventure. The Company had promiſed and engaged themſelves by an Oath to Secrecy as to the Lady's Honour,

and a ſettled Story of her being ſuddenly taken ill was prepared for her Keeper's Ear. Every Thing was concerted, and a Bed was airing to convey her into, when the Sight of her Protector at the Door, before ſhe was undreſſed, diſconcerted the whole Scheme. He no ſooner entered the Room, than the ſorrowful Countenances of his Friends gave him notice of ſome terrible Cataſtrophe, and the Lady juſt liſting up her Eyes, ſaid, with a faint Voice, I am glad you are come to take your farewel of me. See, continued ſhe, holding up her Petticoats; ſee the Condition I am in, but this is nothing. My Candle went out as I was coming over the Garden, and I have ſlipped into the Pond. I am ſtung and cut to death with the Weeds; and poor * * * *, who was the firſt Perſon that heard me call out, ſee the Condition he is in; he had like to have been drowned in trying to ſave me.

THE Story paſſed unſuſpected. The Valet excuſed himſelf for not attending the Lady at that Moment, from the Nature of the Viſit ſhe was making: The Servants were bribed high to keep the Secret, and the Lady and her Lover were put

put into ſeparate Beds in the Houſe: The Maſter of the Entertainment excus'd himſelf from going back to Town with his Company, under a Declaration, that he thought himſelf obliged in Honour and Compaſſion to ſtay with the poor Lady, who had met with ſuch a terrible Accident on a Party of his making, and to make his Acknowledgment in a proper Manner to the Gentleman who had ſuffered ſo terribly in attempting to aſſiſt her.

CHAP. XII.

A Diſcovery is made, which proves of very fatal Conſequence.

THERE is no Kind of Man in the World ſo ſcandalouſly choufed in every Manner; ſo much the Dupe to the Woman he loves, and to the Man he confides in, as the Keeper. The Lady who accepts his Protection, from that Inſtant takes up an Averſion to his Perſon: Her Fondneſs of him becomes a Duty, and therefore ſhe hates to pay it: She looks on herſelf as one who has ſold all that can be valuable in Woman for Money, and therefore determines to make the moſt of her Bargain: As to himſelf, ſhe ſuppoſes his Conduct is to be his own Care not her's, and ſets out on the Principle of his letting him ruin himſelf in her Service if he pleaſes; from the eaſy Suppoſition, that if he did not do it for her he would for ſomebody elſe. She never fails to ſet the Price of her Apoſtacy from Virtue at more than he can pay, be that what it will; and therefore underſtands it as an undoubted Right, to make as much as ſhe

ſhe can of her occaſional Favours to other People. Such is his Situation, in Regard to the Lady herſelf, and he has the additional Plague of her Proſtitutions being moſt of them among his Friends and Acquaintance, who muſt laugh at him while they enjoy them. As to the Men, it is a Point among them, that no Faith is to be kept in Love Affairs where there is not the Seal of Matrimony upon them; and in Conſequence of this happy Reſolution, he who is of the niceſt Honour and moſt ſcrupulous Sincerity in every other Circumſtance of Life, thinks it a Matter of Gallantry and Praiſe to ſcheme againſt his moſt intimate Friend, and injure him in the Point, in which, of all others, he knows him moſt ſenſible of it. I have not much to ſay in favour of the moral Rectitude of a Proceeding of this Kind; but while there is a Way to the only rational Enjoyment of the other Sex, which ſecures the Right in the Perſon, and makes that infamous and criminal, which the Eye of the World over-looks in the other Caſe; it is People's own Fault, who do not purſue the Way in which they will find and preſerve their Happineſs.

THE Conſequence of our Heroine's diſcovered Perfidy to her Protector, was her receiving Propoſals for occaſional Favours from every Man of the Company: The Conſequence of the Propoſals was the Acceptance of them: Her Anſwers were ſhort: She hoped them Men of Honour, and the Word Secrecy was the Caution of their continuing to enjoy her favourable Opinion. Theſe were her Reliefs under the Fatigue of a long lying in Bed, attended with a troubleſome Fever from the Cold ſhe had taken, and, in the Beginning of her Confinement, with the painful and diſagreeable Attendance of a Surgeon, whoſe Employment it was, for ſeveral Days, to anoint the Swellings raiſed by the Effect of the Nettles, with healing and emollient Unguents, before the Inflammation would give him Opportunity to pick out, one by one, the broken Points of the Thiſtles, which were left in the Wounds they had made. The tender Heart of the Protector of the Lady melted at the Diſtreſs he ſaw her in: he watched her by Day, and ſate up a Part of many Nights with her. Love from a Perſon not beloved is at beſt inſi-

pid;

pid; when it falls in the Way of other Purſuits it is deteſted. The Attendance which the Fondneſs of the Keeper dictated to him, and by which he had a Right to recommend himſelf to her Eſteem and Affection, teazed and provoked her by its croſſing her other Purpoſes, and making it almoſt impoſſible for her to pay a neceſſary Reſpect to her ſeveral Offers. She pretended to grow better; but this made him redouble his Attention and Care, as it promiſed him the approaching Reward for his Aſſiduities: She feigned a Relapſe, and his real Affection kept him as cloſe as his intereſted Expectations had done before.

THINGS which ſeem to have no immediate Connection with our Affairs, often prove our Deſtruction; and the greateſt Events have been brought about by Means ſo trivial, that the People concerned could not condeſcend to regard them: I was laughing in Security and Happineſs; and enjoying, as moſt upper Servants do, a Life of vaſtly greater Indulgence and Tranquillity than their Maſters, when both theſe Means conſpired to overthrow it.

THE Lady in Bed ſpent her Hours in deviſing Means to be rid of the only Man whoſe Company ſhe ought to have eſteemed, in order to enjoy that of thoſe who, while they ſollicited it, deſpiſed her. She at length recollected, that the Meſſage which had ſummoned him to Town on the Night of her late Adventure, muſt have been an apocryphal one: She remembered its Succeſs, and ſhe determined to imitate it: There was but one Fellow known among the whole Set of Foreigners, who had Impudence, Addreſs, and Command of Face enough to undertake the delivering a Meſſage of this kind: Theſe known Qualities had before recommended him to me on this Occaſion, and they now recommended him to the Lady. She ſent for him, delivered him his Inſtructions, paid him well, and aſked if he could certainly execute them. He told her he had Experience that he could, and informed her by way of Proof of his Abilities, that he was the Perſon who had executed the former Plot; and at whoſe Inſtigation. This threw me into the Lady's Power, and ſome odd Fortune or other juſt then made him recol-

lect

leſt that I was alſo in his. The Plot theſe ſhallow Heads had laid, was too open to ſucceed: While they were about it, my Meſſenger came to me with an Air of Aſſurance, to demand a ſmall Sum by way of Huſh-money; alledging that I had got enough by the Affair, when it was all his doing; and threatening, if I refuſed, to betray me: I kicked him out of Doors. The Plot upon the Keeper was immediately after diſcovered, and the Lady ſhared the ſame Fate. Repentance is always one of the laſt Attempts of theſe Ladies towards reinſtating themſelves; and Confeſſion, one of the firſt Steps toward convincing the Lover that the Repentance is ſincere.

The Lady confeſſed her former Crime, and told the whole Means of it. I was accuſed of concerting the Plan, and my Turn-coat Miniſter betrayed all my Negotiations. The Lady found no Benefit from this frank Confeſſion; but Vengance was vowed and executed on me. My Maſter was informed that it was I who had dared to uſe his Name in a Counterfeit Meſſage; and partly a Reſentment for this, partly a Com-

Complaiſance for the Perſon injured by it, occaſioned my being turned out of Doors, and denied a Character to any other Place.



CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

Diſtreſs of Circumſtances recommends a Plan not in itſelf very eligible or juſtifiable.— Good Offices to a Lady in Diſtreſs.

I HAD now been ſo long unacquainted with Diſtreſs, that the Terrors of its Return had no Effect upon me. I might have conſidered, that there is not on Earth ſo deplorable a Situation as that of a diſcarded Servant, who has not the Means of getting into another Family. Pride, Idleneſs, and Indigence, are Concomitants that never fail to make the Perſon who is poſſeſſed of them together, a Wretch of the very loweſt Order; and it is the Fate of every one who has been in the Station I had filled in a genteel Family, to be thoroughly poſſeſſed of the two firſt, as ſurely as it muſt be to be acquainted with the laſt, after the very little he finds himſelf worth at his quitting his Poſt, is got rid of. For the firſt Fortnight I found a Joy in Liberty and Uncontroul, which I taſted without ſuffering one Thought of my Circumſtances to affect me: The next Period of that Space was not without its Hints

Hints of the Decreaſe of my Stock, and Menaces of my approaching Diſtreſs. Toward the End of the ſecond Month I was reduced to part with what little Moveables I was worth: The Cloaths I had received as Perquiſites of my Place had gone before theſe, and the next Things that ſaw the Proſpect of following them were my own.

I HAD made ſeveral Attempts to reinſtate myſelf in my late Maſter's Favour, but in vain: I found him, though not exceptious, or apt to take Offence, yet having taken it, irreconcileable. I had the Mortification to ſee, that he looked on my Offence, which I had conſidered no farther than as a venial Falacy, a Trick of Wit rather than of Villainy, as an Affront upon the Dignity of his Poſt, an inſulting the Honour of Kings, who, by the Bye, are not a bit greater than theſe their Repreſentatives ſuppoſe themſelves; and the having dared to play with the ſacred Buſineſs of Government and Councils, I now found appeared a heavier Crime than if I had committed Sacrilege. When I found him inexorable as to his own particular Part, I begged Permiſſion to ſend for a Recom-

Recommendation to another Place (if I ſhould be ſo happy to hear of one) to his principal Domeſtic; even this was refuſed, with Reaſons which ſet my Fault in a new Light to me: The Perſon whoſe Office it would have been to give me a Character on this Occaſion, was ordered in; I was reminded of the favourable Situation in which my Affairs had been in that Family, of the Proſpect there was of my making my Fortune, and of the unjuſtifiable Means by which I had forfeited all: The Remonſtrance ended with recommending Induſtry to me to provide for myſelf, independently of the Protection of a Maſter of any kind, and with a Charge of his being ſilent about me to the Servant, on Pain of loſing his Place.

I FOUND I was made, in all this, no other than an Example to the Perſon who was called in to hear my Sentence: I could have ſpared the being thus hung up *in terrorem*, to a Fellow whom I knew to be a Raſcal: But it was ſoftened to me by a Preſent of five Guineas, which my late Maſter gave me, at the ſame time that I had his Orders that neither himſelf, nor any

any of his Family might ſee my Face again.

THE Induſtry which this Gentleman recommended to me, would have been indiſputably the wiſeſt and beſt Step I could have taken; but there were two inſuperable Difficulties in the Way: I had no Stomach to a Life of Labour, after one of ſuch affluent Idleneſs, and I had no Means or Opportunities of employing myſelf if I had been ever ſo well diſpoſed to it. Starving carries an Aſpect that human Nature cannot look upon without Horror: I had found the Impoſſibility of getting into any other Family without a Recommendation from the laſt: The Gaming-table was my firſt Reſource of Deſperation; and when that had ſtripped me of the little I had been poſſeſſed of, when I applied to it in Hope of Advantage; the Road appeared the next, the only Reſource indeed that was left me.

I DON'T pretend to juſtify the common Method of giving a Character with a Servant to a new Place, which expreſſes his having no Faults, when he has been turned out of his old one for ſuch as rendered it

it impoſſible to keep him in it; but if the People whoſe Affairs are eaſy to themſelves, would feel ſo far for others as to conſider the inevitable Deſtruction to which they expoſe the Servant, to whom they refuſe to give any Recommendation at all, they would be very tender of puniſhing, perhaps, a venial Fault, at the Rate of the heavieſt of Crimes. Silence that ſpeaks the Ill of another, is always underſtood in the ſevereſt Senſe, and doubtleſs I, who could at the utmoſt be accuſed of no more than playing with my Maſter's Name, without injuring it, ſhould have been concluded by any body who had applied for an Account of me, and had been refuſed it, to have been guilty of Theft or Murder. I would have the Faults for which People part, tenderly mentioned to thoſe who are to be affected by them; this would be a way to mend them: The Perſon who accepted the Offender would do it on no other Conditions than a Proſpect of his Amendment, and the Motive would be ſo ſtrong, and the Diſcovery of his continuing in, or relapſing into them ſo certain, and, in fine, its Conſequences ſo deſtructive, that he would find the Neceſſity of becoming better inevitable, and he would

would comply with it. A Medium like this would take off the Reproach which a Breach of Faith between Family and Family brings on, and the laſting Diſſatisfactions that often attend it; and would not only reclaim a Number of uſeful Perſons from little Faults which, for want of this Caution, often ſwell to very deſtructive ones, but would keep our Streets and Roads clear of one half, at leaſt, of the Ruffians who now infeſt them.

FOR my own Part, the Diſtreſs I was reduced to, and the Abſence of all Proſpect of Relief, placed Rapine in a View of almoſt Neceſſity before me. I hope the Principles of moral Rectitude and Virtue would have kept me from it; but I own I have Doubts on that Head: Prudence ſupplied their Place ſucceſsfully, however. I ſaw the Method deſperate, myſelf with a conſiderable Period of Life naturally before me, and this Attempt giving me no Proſpect of a Twelvemonth more: Mere Deliberation gave it againſt the Attempt, and I became honeſt becauſe it was wiſeſt to be ſo.

I WOULD

I WOULD have condeſcended much below the Dignity of my former Poſt. I viſited all the Offices of Intelligence in Town: I mixed myſelf among the Herd of Servants who attend at the Doors of public Places, and I took every Method of getting in any Station into a Family: I had fifty Opportunities of offering myſelf, not one of being accepted: I found my Face too well known in *London* to countenance a Deceit, and I determined to fall upon ſome new Method in the Country, at ſome of the Places of polite Reſort; where it might be poſſible to recommend myſelf, without owning that I had been in any Family before.

A SUNDAY Afternoon is with moſt People, who do not get drunk upon it, a Time of Contemplation: Theſe Reſolutions were taken on this good Day, and the ſucceeding Morning was one of the public ones at *Kendal Houſe*: I determined on this as the Scene of my firſt Attempt; but I flattered myſelf with very little Hopes of Succeſs in it, when I ſaw at the Door the ſame Faces that I had been uſed to

meet

meet with once or twice a Day on the like Occaſions in *London*.

I GAVE up my Scheme, and, as I was not in a Dreſs that prevented it, paid the Price at the Door and walked in, to make myſelf Amends for my Journey to the Place, with the Entertainment it afforded. I found I had miſtaken the Matter greatly when I imagined this was a Breakfaſting Place like *Ranelagh*, where a good Band of Muſic was the Source of Entertainment: I found the Thing, however, far from contemptible in its kind; the Houſe a good one, the Gardens large and well laid out, with a very uncommon Advantage in regard to Water: I had drank two or three Diſhes of Coffee, ſpent half an Hour among the People who were dancing above Stairs, and another half Hour under the Shade of a pleaſant Grove, on one Side of which ran a pretty Rivulet, when I turned my Eyes toward the Building upon the Canal, as the only remaining Object of my Attention. I was ſmiling at the Paintings on the Inſide of the Room, when a Scream from a little Diſtance directed my Eyes that Way: I had before obſerved a Gentleman and Lady

Lady alone in a little Boat upon the Canal, who ſeemed to have ſlipped away from the reſt of the Company, rather upon a quarrelling than a kiſſing Scheme; at this Inſtant the Matter was ſet in a clearer Light: The Lover, if he might be called by that Name, uſed ſome very harſh Words in an elevated Tone of Voice, and puſhing toward the Shore, left the Oar, which he had uſed on that Occaſion, behind him in the Mud, and as ſoon as the Boat was within Reach of Land, threw himſelf out, and gave the Boat a Motion as his Foot quitted it, which carried it juſt into the Middle of the Canal.

The Terms in which he took his Leave made it evident enough that he had no Intention to return, or indeed to take any Step toward relieving the Lady from her Diſtreſs: The Company were all in the Houſe, and myſelf the only Perſon within hearing of her Exclamations. I adviſed her to take hold of the other Oar, and directed her in the Way to uſe it: In the firſt Effort it ſlipped out of her Hand, and in her Attempt to recover it, ſhe reached ſo far as to loſe the Equilibrium, and fell over the Edge of the Boat into the Water.

I for-

I forgot that I could not ſwim: I threw myſelf over the Baluſtrade of the Building, and after ſome Danger to myſelf, with infinite Difficulty got up to her, juſt as ſhe was ſinking. I caught her in my Arms, and carried her to Shore: Her Shrieks had, by this time, brought every body about her, except the Author of the Miſchief. We were carried both of us half-dead to the Houſe, and put into Beds.

As we were both more frightened than really hurt, our Recovery was very ſpeedy: By that time our Cloaths were dried, we were ready to get up to put them on: The Lady ſent her Compliments, and told me ſhe had ordered a Dinner at five, and hoped I ſhould be well enough to dine with her. I revolved the Circumſtances of the whole Incident before I got up: Nothing but a Quarrel ſubſequent to the greateſt Intimacies could have produced ſuch an Occurrence to the Lady: This I was well convinced of: I heard from the Servants who attended her that ſhe was a Woman of Faſhion; and it was eaſy to ſee that I might ſucceed the Lover who had diſcarded her Ladyſhip if I pleaſed. I revolved the Difference between the Life of a Man kept

by

by a Woman for her Pleaſures, and that of one entertained in her Service in the more ordinary way: I placed in a fair and diſintereſted Light the two Periods of my Life, paſſed under the Protection of Lady *Revell*, and that under my ſeveral Excellencies, and gave it wholly in favour of the latter. I had not yet ſerved a Lady, but I eaſily imagined that Poſt to be a milder and a more pleaſurable one than that I had experienced under the Men; and when I recollected that I had come to this Place with no higher Views than to engage myſelf as a Domeſtic, and that this was evidently now in my Power, I had Reſolution enough to perſiſt in my Determination, of not ſacrificing an Eſtabliſhment of Eaſe to a Flight of Gallantry and Shew, which, in the Nature of Things, could not ſubſiſt above a Month or two.

CHAP. XIV.

A Propoſal for entering into the Service of a Lady.

I WAS revolving all the prudent Reſolutions with which I have cloſed the laſt Chapter, when I received a ſecond Meſſage from the Lady, to tell me Dinner was on the Table. I entered the Room with a proper Submiſſion: I found a Chair placed for me oppoſite to the Lady's; but the firſt Step I took was to remove it: "Your Ladyſhip's Senſe of the Service I have been ſo happy to be of, ſaid I, does not give you Opportunity to ſee from whom it has come. I have no Title to a Seat in your Ladyſhip's Preſence: I beg I may be permitted to wait on your Ladyſhip at Dinner: It is the Poſt I have been born to, and to which I have been accuſtomed." "My God! replies the Lady with Aſtoniſhment, is it poſſible that ſuch an Act of Gallantry and Generoſity can have been done by a Perſon of ſuch a Rank: But I am not ſorry to know it, ſince it is eaſier for me to ſhew my Gratitude," than if I had owed it to one

who

who would not have accepted a Reward. My Purſe, Sir, continued ſhe, is all I can at preſent offer you, but be aſſured there is nothing in my Power you may not command for ſuch an Obligation.

IT was with great Difficulty that I obtained Leave to wait while the Lady dined; but ſhe ſaw me ſincere and earneſt in the Requeſt, and ſhe complied with it. She gave me many ſteady Glances as I paſſed to and from the Side-board, and in the Abſence of the Waiter told me three or four times ſhe was ſure I deceived her. I know not, continued ſhe, at laſt, what Purpoſe you can have in this; but that you are a Gentleman is as evident as that you are one of the agreeableſt Men I have ſeen.

I HAD found ſome Difficulty from the Time I entered the Room in perſiſting in my humble, though prudent Reſolution: It was ſcarce in human Nature to keep up to it under ſuch a Circumſtance as this; but I was obſtinate: I knew I was in the right, and I determined to perſiſt in it. I aſſured her Ladyſhip that I was in reality the mean, the unhappy Creature I

repreſented myſelf to her; that I had a Soul not wanting in Ambition to have been otherwiſe; but that I knew my Lot; that I ſubmitted to it, and never ſhould attempt to depart from it. I delivered this ſo ſeriouſly that I convinced her of the Truth of it: She was angry with herſelf for the injudicious Civility ſhe had cloſed her laſt Speech with, and added, "Be what you will, I have Obligations to you that I never can repay; tell me what I can do to ſerve you." "You find me, Madam, replied I, the moſt diſtreſſed of Humankind: The late Servant to a Man of Honour, whom I loved as a Father, and whom I ſaw a Week ſince fall in Duel with his deareſt Friend: There are Circumſtances attending this Incident which only I can relate, and which would anſwer no Purpoſe but adding to the Miſery and Diſtreſs of innocent Perſons, already too near Diſtraction. I have thrown myſelf naked upon the wide World, to avoid being compelled to do ſo unhappy an Office. All that I can wiſh is the Protection of ſome Family in which I may have Bread, and be out of the Way of Enquiries till the Storm that threatens theſe Families is blown over. If I may preſume upon your

Ladyſhip's Aſſurances of your Favour to me, continued I, to ſay what would make me happy, it would be the having the Honour of being received into your Family in ſome Poſt for which I may be qualified, without any farther Enquiry into the Circumſtance or Story of the Family I have left.

"I pay the unlimited Credit that I ought, replied the Lady, to every thing you have told me. I am happy in an Opportunity of obliging myſelf at the ſame time that I am doing what will be agreeable to you. I have no Poſt worth your Acceptance among my ſmall Number of Domeſtics, but if I can make ſuch a one I ſhall be happy.

I RETURNED my Thanks in a ſilent Submiſſion. I waited on her Ladyſhip home, and was ranked among the Number of her Attendants: The Poſt of Valet could not exiſt under a Lady; I took that of Butler, as it did not require the wearing a Livery; and I had the Care of every thing in the Family. I found myſelf happily fixed, at a time when I had

the leaſt Expectations of it. I had ſuffered ſufficiently by the Follies of my natural Diſpoſition to Scheming and Gallantry. I recollected the deplorable State out of which I had juſt recovered myſelf, and was determined to enjoy the Tranquillity of the preſent, without running any Riſk of throwing it away.

CHAP.

CHAP. XV.

Secret History of Lady Calm. *An Intimacy of a very agreeable kind with her.*

IT was ſome Merit that I could make theſe Reſolutions; and a much greater that I found myſelf in a way to keep them: The Lady whom I ſerved always looked upon herſelf as under the higheſt Obligations to me; ſhe had declared an uncommon good Opinion of my Figure and Accompliſhments; I knew her to be a Woman who had done a fooliſh Thing, which every Woman who once does, repeats it; and to this ſhe was one of the fineſt Women, in Face, Figure, and Deportment, in the World.

LADY *Calm*, for ſuch was the Title of the Lady into whoſe Service I had thus ſtrangely introduced myſelf, was a Woman who had the Art of appearing to have no Paſſions; a ſettled, ſober Sedateneſs, blended with an amiable Affability, made the diſtinguiſhing Part of her Character. She was tall, genteelly made, majeſtic in her Appearance, and had a Face that ne-

ver appeared in a public Place, without putting a hundred that were called handſome out of Countenance. She was at this time about ſix and twenty; her Gravity gave her the Appearance of two or three Years more in public, and at home her chearful Wantonneſs of Diſpoſition took off as many. I had long diſcovered that ſhe was the laſt of all Women who poſſeſſed that cold Tranquillity her Countenance pretended a Claim to; and had often lamented that only one Man in the World, and he one of the laſt in the World that deſerved it, was in the Secret. She had been educated in the Country, where this noble Lover had firſt paid his Addreſſes to, and ſucceeded with her. Her Fortune was inconſiderable, but her Perſon was ſufficient to recommend her: When her firſt Lover had been acquainted with that till Cuſtom had obliterated all its Charms, he made her Amends for the Sacrifice ſhe had made him, by ſacrificing to her a Man of Faſhion, whom he profeſſed the greateſt Friendſhip for, and who he knew would anſwer all the Purpoſes of a Huſband, to a Lady who had a Subſtitute in her Service.

LORD

LORD *Sallow*, for that was the Name of this Man of Honour who had at once ſacrificed his Friend to his Miſtreſs, and his Miſtreſs to his Friend, continued his Viſits in the Family: His Intimacy with both rendered the Frequency of them unſuſpected, and he found himſelf much better pleaſed with having only ſo much of his Miſtreſs as ſtolen Hours and accidental Opportunities could give him, than with the whole to himſelf. Delicacy was not of the Number of Lord *Sallow*'s good Qualities, and he was too much unacquainted with Love to be capable of Jealouſy. The Lady had married becauſe it was his Advice, and was for her Intereſt; and the Huſband, whoſe ill Health did not permit him to enter into the Raptures of any Enjoyment, thought he was as happy as other married Men, and perhaps eſteemed it no inconſiderable Article in the Account, that it gave him a good deal more of his Friend's Company than he ſhould otherwiſe have had.

NEVER was a Scene of Infamy ſo eaſy as the Abuſe of this unſuſpecting Huſband: No Life of Gallantry was ever a Life of

ſuch Security as that of the Lovers: A Contempt of Danger has often, however, overturned a State. The Huſband, who never could ſuſpect, never would have watched Opportunities to diſcover their Intercourſe; but Chance threw it in his Way. At a time when they thought him ſecure in his Afternoon's Nap, he entered her Ladyſhip's Dreſſing-room, the Door of which it would have been prudent in them to have locked; and was an Eye-witneſs to what any body but himſelf, perhaps, would have been every thing but an Eye-witneſs to long before. The Confuſion on all Parts was great: The Lover made his Eſcape out at another Door, and the Lady ſunk in a Fit upon the Couch which ſhe had been before preſſing in another Manner.

THE ill Health of the Huſband rendered it ridiculous in him to attempt the common Vengeance for ſuch Injuries; it could anſwer no Purpoſe to divulge a Thing he could not puniſh as he wiſhed: He buried the Secret in his Boſom, where it preyed upon his Vitals, and added to the Execution his Diſeaſe was making on him. He died in about a Month, after having been

married three Quarters of a Year. He never ſaw his falſe Friend after the Incident, and he left the Partner in the Crime an Annuity ſufficient to keep her above the Neceſſity of Proſtitution, but by no means proportioned to his former Intentions.

LADY *Calm* had been two Years a Widow when I fell into her Service; The noble Lover, who had been the Occaſion of her Loſs in Point of Fortune, made it up, in ſome Degree, by adding a handſome Allowance to her Income, and upon this joint Stock it was, that ſhe at this time ſupported herſelf in a genteel Houſe, with her Coach and five Servants. It was this Gentleman who had quarrelled with her Ladyſhip at *Kendal*, and been the Occaſion of the Incident that threw me into her Service: He had diſcontinued his Viſits for ten Days or a Fortnight after this; ſo that there was no Appearance of an Intrigue in the Family; and her Ladyſhip had appeared to me in the Light of as diſengaged a Woman as could be found in the World.

IT is an odd Circumſtance, that what ought in the Eye of Reaſon to recommend a Thing to one, is often the very Incident that makes one cool to it. I had always looked on my Lady and Miſtreſs as a Perſon it was poſſible for me to get into an Intrigue with, but my Senſe of the ſafer, quieter, and every Way better Poſt I enjoyed as her Servant, in the more genuine Senſe of the Word forbad it: Such had been my Sentiments of my preſent Situation, from the Time of my entering into her Service, to the Period of her apparent Diſengagedneſs, and ſuch they would probably have continued for ever, had not this Mirror of Nobility renewed his Intimacy, and very evidently convinced us who were in the Family, of the Nature of it.

WHAT had appeared an eaſy Intrigue, attended with no manner of Inconvenience, Danger, or Difficulty; and what under ſuch an Appearance I had neglected, no ſooner ſhewed itſelf to me in a new Form, no ſooner poſted a great, a potent, and a kind of proprietary Rival in my Way; no ſooner threw Hazard and Miſchief into the Attempt, than my Reſolutions all vaniſhed, and

and I came to a Determination of facing and conquering them all: Whether this was owing to Love or Pride, to a Paſſion concealed before, or to one which had, till this time, no Opportunity of exerting itſelf, I know not; but certain it is, that I no ſooner ſaw a ſucceſsful Lover in the Houſe, than I determined to ſupplant him. I had not been uſed to Repulſes, to Rivalſhip, or to Diſappointment, and I could not bear the Thought of ſubmitting to any thing of this kind, even in regard to a Paſſion, or to call it by a juſter Name, an Intention which only my own Heart was conſcious of its poſſeſſing.

It is impoſſible to conceive the Contempt and Diſdain with which I, an Animal wholly overlooked and diſregarded by this noble Poltroon, viewed him: Every Look he bent toward my Lady and Miſtreſs in my Preſence, cut me to the Heart, not ſo much out of a Spirit of Rivalſhip, as out of my Indignation that ſuch a Thing ſhould dare to look up to ſuch Perfection. If he kiſſed her Hand, mine burnt with Eagerneſs to return the Salute to his Lips in a harſher Manner: If I found my Abſence was expected, Daggers,

Poiſon,

Poiſon, Fire, were in my Thoughts at once, and all Hell was conjured up to miniſter to my intended Vengeance.

SHE had burſt from him one Day, after what I could perceive in her Countenance, had been but a languid Scene of Rapture; a poor Reſult of long Preparation. I ſeized on the Opportunity, I croſſed the Room where ſhe was ſitting covered over with more than Bluſhes, and affecting to be reading; and as I paſſed near her, muttered to myſelf as if I had imagined I was alone,

Love! what a poor Omnipotence haſt thou,
When Gold and Titles buy thee!

The Lady ſtarted, Ha! was pronounced with a wild Emphaſis, and the Book fell from her Hand: I ſaw her Confuſion; I read her Thoughts; her Arms were thrown open in the Expreſſion of her Aſtoniſhment; I threw myſelf into them; and as if Rapture and Confuſion had made me forget Reſpect, Decency, myſelf, her, and all Things in the World, buried my Face in her Boſom, and heard her, without attempting to diſlodge me from the Poſt,

Poſt, utter with a faultering Voice, and in diſcontinued Syllables: "What is it poſſible you could mean by what you ſaid?" It would have been very difficult to ſpeak with Propriety in ſuch a Circumſtance as mine. I knew it would be eaſier a Minute afterwards: For the preſent there was a Language more eloquent than Words; I was reſolute to employ it, and Amazement ſeemed in the Lady to take the Place of Reſiſtance.

"Well, ſays ſhe, after a long Gaſp for Breath, how have you dared to do this? But you don't imagine you ſhall ever repeat your Inſolence. Heaven, with my Servant! But why would you uſe me thus? You know I ſaw through the Diſguiſe at firſt: I am angry with you for continuing it. I'm ſure, concluded ſhe, you laugh at yourſelf now for thinking it was neceſſary; you laugh at your own Fears that kept you ſo long at a Diſtance; and you laugh at me for proſtituting myſelf to you with ſuch ſcandalous Eaſe." "That I placed you, Madam, replied I with great Humility, beyond my Reach, beyond the Reach of any Man, when I had the Honour firſt to know

know you, is certain; nor is it leſs certain that I ſhould have ſeen you in that Light for ever: I ſhould have gazed at you as a Divinity, and ſhould have thought it Happineſs enough to have Liberty, to have Opportunity of doing ſo, if others would have kept the ſame Diſtance: I could have been content to be without that which I ſet above the Deſert of Humankind; but I could not ſee another poſſeſs what I deſpaired of: I thank him for telling me you were no more than Woman, and yet I give myſelf the Lie when I conſent to the Information: I thank him for making me believe ſo, for ſure you are ſomething more." "O Flattery! replied the Lady with a Sigh, what can reſiſt thee? I'm ſure not Woman: While I am ſenſible you laugh at me for believing you, I am pleaſed with hearing what I know you cannot think: But tell me truly, tell me you are not what you pretend, and convince me that I have done Miracles in making you aſſume a Character that it muſt be ſuch Pain to you to have ſo long ſupported."

I SAW ſhe was determined to have ſome Explanation on this Head; I foreſaw all the

the unlucky Conſequences that would have attended telling her the Truth: I found it neceſſary, for my own ſake, to deceive her, and I could not but view it in a very juſtifiable Light, when I ſaw it would make her happy. That my Father, ſaid I, if I know him, is ſomewhat above this Rank; that he is of a Rank which nothing leſs than Royalty can be above, I muſt confeſs is a Truth: I will own that I have lived, and that not very long ſince, in a State ſomewhat different from this: But I will own, at the ſame time, that I owe more to this than to any Condition that I have or can be in: That I have now in my Arms every thing that I can think great or deſireable, and that if you will permit me, I will continue to enjoy it on theſe Conditions, as they are the only ones that can give it to me, under the happy Sanction of an inviolable Secrecy. I beg your Ladyſhip, continued I, will aſk no more: At preſent I have no more to tell: If you will ſometimes, when the buſy Eye of Obſervation is ſhut out, give me leave to remember that I am——what I had almoſt ſaid; what I muſt not, at preſent, more than almoſt ſay——I ſhall owe more

than

than I can ever pay to you even hereafter; and if you will ſuffer me to be the thing I muſt, the thing I have been at all other times, you will add infinitely to the Obligation, by not enquiring into the Nature of it.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

Some miſchievous Effects of Reſentment.—A new Scene of Diſtreſs threatened.

THE Lady found it hard to conſent to the Terms I had propoſed as the only ones under which I could continue my Acquaintance with her, at the End of the laſt Chapter; but as I could hear of no others, ſhe acquieſced in them: I had hinted that Love was not the only Cauſe of my imaginary Metamorphoſis: I had given her leave to ſuppoſe that the Duel in which I had mentioned my pretended Maſter to have been concerned, regarded myſelf: And I had, under the different Behaviour this pretended Diſcovery gave me a Right to put on, as well as to expect, obtained her Promiſe of Secrecy.

HER Ladyſhip had a favourite female Attendant; this Gentlewoman was neceſſarily in ſome of her Secrets, and conſequently ſhe was let into all. It would have been eaſy to conceal our Intrigue from all the World, if we could have been content with ſnatching Opportunities

portunities of now-and-then meeting on the good-natured Terms we had juſt fallen upon; but the Lady was no Niggard in her Bounties of this kind. She determined to indulge in a Thing ſhe liked, and as there was no way of doing this to her Satisfaction, but by letting this Confidant into the Secret, ſhe reſolved to make a Merit of the Neceſſity, and when ſhe had inſpired her with a due Reverence for my imagined Quality, to tell her, that I ſhould always revel in her Arms on thoſe Nights in which the noble Lover ſhe before was acquainted with, did not ſleep in them. Here was a glorious Scheme in my Favour, of which I had formed no Idea. I had ſupped, and was undreſſing in my own Apartment, when a very gentle Rap ſummoned me to the Door. I was ſurpriſed to ſee Mrs. *Truſty* there, and was in Terrors on an Imagination that ſome civil Things I had ſaid to her, before my new Affair with her Lady, had brought her to me: My Fears were ſoon diſſipated, by her telling me her Lady wanted to give me Orders: I followed her to the Door of the Bedchamber: I found ſhe gave me the Slip inſtead of going in before me: I flew to the Bed-ſide, and received the Com-

Commands of the Lady who was in it, to come to her. There is ſomething in a Happineſs of this kind that comes unexpectedly, that gives it double its Weight. Nothing could equal the Senſations with which I threw off my Cloaths, unleſs it were the honeſt, the unaffected Joy which the Lady had in the free Indulgence of a Paſſion which ſhe now confeſſed ſhe had entertained for me from the Inſtant of her ſeeing me.

I LEFT her before any body in the Houſe was awake: I was happy in being found in bed ſoon after ſix, by a Footman who came upon ſome frivolous Errand, and did not ſee that this was a Contrivance of the diſcreet Gentlewoman who had been the Meſſenger of Love to me the Night before, though ſhe affected to know nothing of the Matter. Secrecy is the Life and Soul of an Intrigue: It is indeed the only Conſideration that can heartily recommend it to a Man of true Taſte. I flattered myſelf that I enjoyed an Intimacy with the fineſt Woman in the World, under the happieſt and cloſeſt Seal of this Security: But I ſoon found Reaſon to ſee my Error. At Breakfaſt I ſaw the Servants

vants all ſtare, and keep a ſort of Diſtance, and ſoon had the Mortification to hear it all over the Neighbourhood, that Lady *Calm*'s new Servant out of Livery, was a Nobleman in Diſguiſe, who had killed another in a Duel. The Lady, who thought it neceſſary in Juſtification of her own Pride to tell this Story to the Servant whom ſhe found it neceſſary to make the Confidant of our Intimacy, had given her the ſtricteſt Orders imaginable not to divulge it; but it was a Piece of News too ſtrange for a Chambermaid to hold her Tongue about: Her Lady's Honour, perhaps, did not enter into her Thoughts, as ſhe had no Deſign to make a Diſcovery, which no body but herſelf could make; but ſhe could not conſent to ſee me want the Reſpect due to my Quality: Thus much ſhe confeſſed to me on my taxing her as the Authreſs of ſo ſtrange a Story: She acknowledged her Lady to have been the Authreſs of her Information, and with a half Bluſh and half Smirk, added, that my Honour need not be under any Reſtraint on her Account, for that ſhe was in all her Lady's Secrets.

I HAD

I HAD ſuffered enough before by the Folly of indulging myſelf in the Extravagances of my Temper: I had determined to ſuppreſs them for the future: I had found myſelf happy in the Service of this Lady, and had reſolved never to build any more aërial Caſtles, or to think of a higher Rank: But I now found myſelf plunged into the Midſt of a new Scene, before I could conceive I had entered on the Verge of it. My Pride was ſufficiently flattered by the Homage that I ſaw paid me; I indulged in the ſecret Rank I was allowed, and thought myſelf poſſeſſed of ten thouſand Sources of Rapture at once from it. Alas! how little do we ſee of Conſequences, when the preſent Ideas flatter our Imagination. It was not two Days before I found my new diſcovered Dignity had robbed me of all my old Acquaintance: People of my own Rank, with whom I had been uſed to ſpend my Evenings very agreeably, kept aloof, and though they would no longer laugh and converſe with me, were ready enough to wait on me: I had no Companion but the Lady whom I ſerved. This threw me continually into her Company; and I am

ſorry

ſorry to confeſs it, but I am afraid this is the ſureſt Way in the World to make People tired of one another. From Rapture we ſunk to Eaſe, from Eaſe the Tranſition was quick to Indifference: We grew tired of the eternal Sameneſs of our Converſation, and after two or three Days began to quarrel, merely to keep up the Spirit of the Converſation.

THE noble Lover did not fail to make his regular Viſits all this time, but they were not very long, nor over agreeable to any of us: The Conſequence of them was uſually a new Matter of Diſpute for the Lady and myſelf as ſoon as he was gone, and as his Viſits were principally to Dinner, and terminated before Evening, the Squabbles that ſucceeded them, uſually kept us awake till we made up our Differences, in the Place where all Quarrels between the two Sexes ceaſe, unleſs the Parties are married.

I HAD made it a Point never to appear in the Room when his Lordſhip was there, and the Lady, who would have found her own Conduct a very difficult one on theſe Occaſions, under any other Conditions, made

made no Scruple of acquieſcing in it: The Abſence of a principal Servant who had been a Favourite too, could not paſs unnoticed by his Lordſhip. I had the Mortification to be within hearing, though not in ſight, when the noble Lover aſked after me, and the Lady anſwered with an abſolutely unaffected Indifference, that I was in the Houſe, but ſhe did not intend to keep me: That ſhe had liked me extremely at firſt, but I was grown inſolent and troubleſome, and ſhe ſhould be glad if ſhe knew how to be fairly rid of me. The Viſiter laughed at the Difficulties ſhe ſeemed to find in the Way to the parting with me; but I ſaw her Heart and her real Thoughts. There was much more Meaning in her Words than they ſeemed to him to convey, but I heartily felt it all. I found Novelty had been the principal Thing that had recommended me to her, and that ſhe was in earneſt tired of her Attachment. Patience is not of the Number of my Virtues. I could hardly keep myſelf out of the Room, hardly forbear coming to an inſtant Explanation.

I HAD hitherto only pretended Diſſatisfaction at his Viſits, I now felt it: He

was no ſooner gone than I flew to her Apartment: She received me with a Coldneſs that convinced me ſhe had ſpoke her Thoughts at Table; I taxed her with Indifference; I told her ſhe was tired of me. Though ſhe no longer loved me, I ſaw ſhe feared me: She dreaded a Diſcovery that muſt have been attended with the withdrawing his Lordſhip's Penſion, or, in other Words, with her Ruin: She ſhould have known I was not capable of that; but ſhe was not in the wrong to fear the Reſentment of a Man who had loved her, and who ſhe ſaw, in a thouſand Inſtances, was impatient of an Injury. She diſſembled a continued Affection for me; I ſaw it, and I deſpiſed her for doing it: I was determined not to condemn her, however, on Suſpicion: We paſſed the Night together as we uſed to do, and either abſolute Deſire, indifferent about the Object that gratified it, ſtood in Place of Love, or ſhe is the greateſt of all Miſtreſſes of Diſſimulation. I, who thought I was convinced the Day before, when I recollected every ſucceeding Circumſtance coolly, and as diſintereſtedly as a Lover could in the Morning, gave it againſt myſelf for my Precipitancy in coming to a Deter-

Determination, and found myſelf uncertain. I was not of a Humour, as *Othello* ſays,

To make a Life of Jealouſy,
And follow ſtill the Changes of the Moon
With freſh Suſpicions.

I determined that the Certainty of the worſt was preferable to Suſpence, in which even the beſt ſeemed to place itſelf in view. I reſolved to bring it to a Concluſion, and to be either aſſured of the Certainty of my Suſpicions, or cured of them. A very favourable Opportunity preſented itſelf: It was one of the Nights on which his Lordſhip ſtayed; for this Man of Gallantry had his Paſſions in ſuch abſolute Subſervience, that he indulged them, not when they called for it, but when he choſe it, and had his ſtated and regular Days of the Week in which he was to be amorous, as punctually appointed as thoſe in which his Buſineſs was to be in *Exchange Alley*.

On the Days when his Lordſhip's Viſits were to be continued till the ſucceeding Morning, he did not come till the Duſk of the Evening, and then with great

Privacy: This was a Point the Lady made, and that with great Reaſon, as on this depended the Footing ſhe was received on in the World: I don't imagine there was any body who knew her, who at this time made any Doubt of her Connection with Lord *Sallow*, or even of her Dependance on him; but ſo long as ſhe had the Diſcretion to keep it private, it was underſtood to affect no body but herſelf. The Women of Character of this Age, though they are extremely ſcrupulous as to their Acquaintance among their own Sex, yet are not ſo unreaſonable as to expect every Woman they know ſhould be virtuous; they are ſenſible it is in every Woman's Power, who has any Degree of Prudence, to be ſecret, and this they inviolably exact from them. Whether this ariſes from a Senſe of their own Situation, or from ſome other Motive, let the Caſuiſts determine. Lady *Calm*, while ſhe gave room for no more than Suſpicions, was viſited by half the Women of Faſhion in Town; every one of whom diveſted herſelf of all Concern with the Sacrifice ſhe made no Doubt of her making of her Virtue, but every one of whom would have deſerted her on the firſt Loſs of her Prudence

dence that ſhould have manifeſted itſelf in a Diſcovery. The Author of ſome Hiſtories of the *French* Clergy give us an Account of a Prieſt who when delivered up to the ſecular Arm for a criminal Intercourſe with one of his Penitents, flew to an Aſſembly of his Brethren, and exclaimed, Why Gentlemen, what is all this? Do not you all do the very ſame thing every Day of your Lives? Why will you, or how can you abandon me for a Thing in which we are all equally culpable? A grave Brother delivered him the Senſe of the Body in this ſhort Anſwer: We allow all this to be true, nor do we pretend to blame you for the Fact, but you deſerve to be hanged for being ſuch a d—n'd Rogue as to be found out, and you muſt ſubmit to it. It ſeems much thus with the Women of Faſhion of *England* at this Period: They ſeem to underſtand the Crime as conſiſting in the Diſcovery, and while they give up *** for one Slip, which has a thouſand Circumſtances to plead in its Favour, or at leaſt in its Mitigation, would receive *Charlotte* or *Lucy*, if they did not make the whole World the Confidants of their Proſtitution.

IT was upon this Principle that Lady *Calm* inſiſted on all the Caution in the World, in Lord *Sallow*'s Conduct, in regard to thoſe appointed Days on which he was criminal. This always gave me the whole Day till Evening in Security with her; and as ſhe ſeldom dreſſed till toward the Time of his Coming, ſhe was uſually in that ſort of dawdling Humour in which fine Ladies are, as it were, neither ſick nor well, and dine in their Dreſſing-rooms: On theſe Occaſions, as her Woman was the only Servant admitted, I always dined with her under Pretence, to the reſt of the Family, of waiting at the Sideboard. It was now one of theſe Days: I had been alarmed to the Height at the preceding Day's Converſation, which her Ladyſhip did not know I had overheard, and I had been ſoothed into believing I had terrified myſelf from falſe Appearances from the ſucceeding Night: The Time approached for the Trial, and I determined it ſhould be final, and ſuch as could admit of no Appeal.

ON the firſt of his Lordſhip's Days after my Intimacy with her Ladyſhip, ſhe had

had ſent him home with a Pretence of being ill, and had given herſelf to me: It was a Compliment I had never ſo much as aſked or thought of her paying me afterwards, as I knew her Dependance upon him; but it was now time to make it the Teſt of her Indifference or her Affection to me: I did her the fair Juſtice of preparing for it, by as much Softneſs as I was Maſter of inſpiring, and when ſhe ſeemed in a Condition to ſink upon my Boſom, named her repeating that ſingular Favour. She ſtarted at the Propoſal: She was Miſtreſs of great Addreſs, but I had now thrown her off her Guard: She not only denied the Requeſt, but I could read in her Confuſion, a real Preference for the Wretch who was my Rival, unconnected with the Thought of Intereſt; and a Diſſatisfaction with me, that ſpoke a hearty Deſire to be rid of me, but a Deſpair of the Means of being ſo. In the Impatience of my Heart, I told her what I read in her Countenance: I ventured to add ſome Hints as to what had given me my firſt Suſpicions the Day before at Table, which I told her I ſufficiently well underſtood, though the Fool to whom ſhe had ſpoke them did not: She would fain have diſſembled her Surprize,

prize, her Concern, and her Acknowledgment of the Truth of what I charged her with; but they all appeared too glaringly to be miſtaken by a Man who had known ſo much of the Sex as I had. A heavier Quarrel than we had ever had before, was the Conſequence of this Converſation: A thouſand Reproaches were given from both Sides; and as we were both too angry to be upon our Guard, many things paſſed that gave us ſufficient Fears of one another. The Diſpute continued till my Lord's Rap of Intrigue was known at the Door: I had the Impudence to threaten ſtaying till he came up, and diſputing my Miſtreſs with him; but the joint Intreaties of her Ladyſhip, and my very good Friend Mrs. *Truſty*, at length prevailed with me to leave the Room.

The END of VOL. I.

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